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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bat Tests Positive for Rabies

Racine County Public Health Division (RCPH) is informing the public of a positive rabies result in a bat located in Racine County. The bat was captured by a local resident following concerns of potential exposure to their pets. RCPH conducted an investigation, arranged for the bat to be tested, and worked with the resident to ensure any animals potentially in contact with the bat were quarantined and vaccinated as appropriate.

This positive result is a reminder that while rabies is rare in the United States, it remains a concern to public health officials because: 1) several million United States residents are victims of animal bites each year; and 2) rabies is commonly found in bats and other wild animals such as raccoon, fox, coyote, and skunk. The rabies virus is usually transmitted through saliva or brain/nervous system tissue. You can only get rabies by coming in contact with these specific bodily fluids and tissues. Rabies is a fatal disease but is preventable with the proper treatment.

RCPH recommends the general public follow these safety measures:

- Keep your pets up to date on vaccines and keep records of when they were vaccinated.
- Never keep wild or exotic animals as pets.
- Avoid handling, touching, feeding, or rescuing wild animals.
- Teach children not to approach strange animals, including others' pets.
- Discuss as soon as possible any potential exposure (bite or non-bite) to bats with your physician and report it to your local health department.
- Contact your veterinarian and local health department if your pet has been in a fight with any wild animals.

If you or a family member get bitten or scratched, wash the wound immediately with liberal amounts of soap and water, and report to your physician, local public health department during business hours, or local law enforcement after hours.

For more information regarding rabies in animals, please contact your local health department.

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Racine County Public Health Division works with the community to prevent disease, promote well-being, and protect the health and safety of our community in the areas of environmental health, community health, and emergency preparedness. We aim to be a trusted health leader and relevant force in the community.

Visit us at www.racinecounty.gov/publichealth, Facebook.com/RCPHD, Twitter.com/RacineCoPH and Instagram.com/racinecountypublichealth.