



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 15, 2014

**Cat Tests Positive for Rabies in Montgomery County, PA;
Anyone who may have come in contact with two-legged cat at pet hospital should call MCHD**

Norristown, PA (December 15, 2014) – The Montgomery County Health Department (MCHD) has received confirmation that a cat that was being fostered by Green Lane Veterinary Hospital has tested positive for rabies. The rabid cat has been identified as “Jinx,” a male Tabby that was brown with black stripes and had its tail and both rear legs amputated.

Health Department officials are asking anyone who may have come in contact with the cat at the Green Lane Veterinary Hospital between the dates of November 29 and December 11 to contact Montgomery County Health Department, Division of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention at 610-278-5117 so MCHD staff may assess any potential rabies exposure. The animal hospital is located at 3015 Main Street, Green Lane, PA.

MCHD officials emphasize that the Health Department is only concerned with contact with the described animal identified as “Jinx.” There are no other animals with confirmed rabies at this facility.

The cat had been in the care of the veterinary hospital since November 1. On December 11 the cat became unusually aggressive and was exhibiting neurological signs indicative of rabies. It was humanely euthanized that same day. Due to the high suspicion of rabies, it was sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Bureau of Laboratories on December 12 for rabies testing. On December 13, it was determined to be positive for rabies.

MCHD was notified through the after-hours on-call system on December 13, and immediately began working with the facility to identify exposed persons and animals. Hospital employees who were exposed to the cat have been identified and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), also known as the rabies

shots, has been recommended. The cat attacked two other cats while at the facility. Those cats have received rabies vaccine boosters and are currently under the appropriate quarantines.

Vaccinating domestic animals, e.g. dogs, cats, and ferrets, is an important way to prevent rabies transmission from wildlife animal reservoirs to the human population. The Montgomery County Public Health Code requires that all cats and dogs three months of age and older must be vaccinated against rabies. Persons with questions about vaccination for their pets should contact their veterinarian.

All residents of Montgomery County, especially those where rabid animals have been found, should be warned not to befriend any wild or stray animals. Residents are requested to report any contact with stray or wild animals to the Montgomery County Health Department at 610-287-5117 to determine if there is a need for PEP.