



# IREDELL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

318 Turnersburg Highway • Statesville, North Carolina 28625 • 704-878-5300

Donna M. Campbell, RN, MPH  
Health Director

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact: Katherine Smith 704-924-4089  
Mary Gantt 704-878-5300 x5330

### **Iredell County experiences recent rabies case.**

The Iredell County Health Department received notification this week of a positive rabies test result in a calf on an Iredell County farm located on Westward Rd in Statesville. They also, received notification of another calf exhibiting symptoms of rabies on another farm located on Old Mountain Road; however test results have not been received on the second calf at this time. According to the CDC, the first symptoms of rabies may include tiredness, fever, vomiting, and poor appetite. Signs of rabies begin to progress within days to include: loss of coordination, weakness, paralysis, seizures, difficulty breathing, difficulty swallowing, excessive salivation, and other disorders of the nervous system. Death usually occurs within days of the onset of these symptoms.

In the United States, distinct strains of rabies virus have been identified in raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes. Several species of bats are also reservoirs for strains of the rabies virus. Transmission of rabies virus usually begins when infected saliva of a host is passed to an uninfected animal, usually by a bite.

People usually get rabies from the bite of a rabid animal. It is also possible, but quite rare, that people may get rabies if infectious material from a rabid animal, such as saliva, gets directly into their eyes, nose, mouth, or a wound.

You can protect your pet, yourself and your community by getting your pet vaccinated. You can get your pets vaccinated at your local veterinarian or the Iredell County Animal Shelter, located at 243 Twin Oaks Road in Statesville. The Iredell County Animal Shelter offers rabies vaccination Monday-Friday 10:30 am – 5:00 pm, Saturdays 10 am- 2 pm and on the second Tuesday of each month from 6:30 pm- 7:30 pm at the rabies clinic.

If you notice strange behavior in an animal, do not approach it. Contact Iredell County Animal Services and Control immediately at 704-878-5424 or after hours and holidays at 704-878-3039. Contact the Iredell County Communicable Disease Charge Nurse at 704-878-5334 if you have questions.

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