



**MEDIA ADVISORY  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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The Kane County Health Department has confirmed that two more bats have tested positive for rabies. Kane County Animal Control collected one bat from St. Charles on May 30 and a second bat was collected by Aurora Animal Control June 1. The health department's investigation showed that there was no human exposure in either case.

The two cases bring the total to three in Kane County this year. One was found in an Aurora home in early January. Last year, Kane reported five positive bats. Illinois had recorded 113 confirmed cases of rabies in animals last year, all found in bats. This compares to 46 reported in 2006. In 2006 one bat with rabies was found in Kane County, the first since 2001. Bats are the primary carriers of rabies in Illinois. A case of human rabies has not been reported in Illinois since 1954.

"The cases of rabies are increasing and we encourage the public to follow the guidelines in preventing the spread of the disease," Paul Kuehnert, Executive Director of the Health Department, said.

Dr. Jane Davis, Kane County Animal Control Veterinarian, recommends that children and adults avoid contact with any wild animal that displays unusual behavior, such as seeing a nocturnal animal in the daytime, or one that does not show fear of humans. Animals do not need to exhibit the stereotypical Hollywood images of aggression and foaming at the mouth to be dangerous.

(MORE)

“It also is important to make sure all pet vaccinations are current, even for indoor pets. Many of the rabid bats we are finding are discovered indoors. This requirement is important to not only keep your pets from getting rabies, but also to provide a barrier of protection for you if your animal is bitten by a rabid animal,” Davis said.

Prevention guidelines:

- Rabid bats may exhibit no obvious abnormalities, so all contact with bats should be avoided.
- Where there is a likelihood of encountering bats, such as at children’s outdoor camps, people should be instructed not to touch bats.
- People should NOT be allowed to occupy a room in which bats are found, until it is certain that no bats remain in the room and that the room has been sealed to prevent their re-entry.
- If a bat is found indoors, the structure should be thoroughly inspected for the presence of roosting bats.
- Exclusion remains the best way to prevent and control bats in a structure.
- Keep pets under direct supervision so they do not come in contact with wild animals. If your pet is bitten by a wild animal or exposed to a bat, seek veterinary assistance for your pet immediately.
- Call the local animal control agency to remove contained stray animals in your neighborhood.

More information about rabies is available by calling the Health Department at (630) 208-3801 and asking for the Communicable Disease program, or by logging on to the Illinois Department of Public Health Web site at [www.idph.state.il.us/health/infect/reportdis/rabies.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/health/infect/reportdis/rabies.htm). For information about a referral for capturing bats or for submitting for testing, please call Kane County Animal Control at (630) 232-3555.

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