

Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission

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PRESS RELEASE

The Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission is reporting that a raccoon found in Bridgewater NJ tested positive for rabies on January 20, 2022. While health department personnel have identified individuals and animals potentially exposed to this animal, we encourage anyone who has had direct contact with a raccoon to contact the Health Department immediately.

This incident should serve as a reminder of the importance of making sure your pet is up to date on their vaccinations, especially rabies. In addition, we encourage pet owners to be aware of their pets' location and activities at all times in order to try to avoid preventable exposures. If your pet is exposed to a wild animal, it is very important to notify the health department, have the pet seen by a veterinarian, test the wild animal if it is available, and to avoid human contact with any saliva, wounds, etc. to prevent human exposures.

The Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission urges residents to be aware and cautious of potential rabid animals and avoid contact with any unknown animal. Rabies, a neurological disease, is almost 100% preventable. However, rabies is nearly always fatal once symptoms have developed so prompt action is necessary to prevent rabies!

The Middle-Brook Regional Health Commission, serving Bridgewater, Green Brook, Warren, and Watchung, is available to assist you with any incidents. Please contact us at 732-968-5151 or by email at mbrhc@middlebrookhealth.org with any questions or concerns. For Bridgewater Township Health Division please call 908-725-6300 ext. 5205 or email pparker@bridgewaternj.gov. for the local Health Inspector. If an incident occurs after normal hours please contact your local police department.

