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For Immediate Release

Subject: Rabid bat in Kankakee County

Two bats have tested positive for rabies in the past month in Kankakee County. Although both bats were found in the city of Kankakee, bats that carry rabies can be found anywhere in Kankakee County. There have been 26 bats that have tested positive for rabies in Illinois so far this year, and 40 bats tested positive for rabies in Illinois in 2014.

If you find a bat in your home or other location, do not attempt to remove it yourself. Try and isolate yourself and others from the bat, but minimize harm to the bat so it can be tested for rabies. Contact Kankakee County Animal Control to remove the bat by calling 815.937.2949, after hours call 815.936.4641.

If a bat has been in a room with someone who was sleeping, an unobserved child, or someone who is incapacitated, rabies vaccine may be needed. You may need rabies vaccine if you touch a bat without any barrier, are bitten by a bat, or come into contact with saliva or brain/nervous tissue. For any exposure to a bat or a bite from any animal, contact the Kankakee County Health Department to determine if rabies vaccine is needed, call 815.802.9430, after hours call 815.937.8479.

To protect your pets from exposure to rabies, all owners are reminded that it is VERY important for your pets to be current with their rabies vaccination, even animals that never leave the house.

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