



KANKAKEE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Date: 8.04.2017

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For Immediate Release

Subject: Rabid bats in Kankakee County

Four bats have tested positive for rabies in the past two months in Kankakee County. Bats that carry rabies may be found anywhere in Kankakee County. Two bats tested positive for rabies in Kankakee County, and a total of 63 bats tested positive for rabies throughout the whole state of Illinois in 2016.

If you find a bat in your home or other location, do not attempt to handle or 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.

Rabies vaccine may be needed if you handle a bat, or there is a bat in a room with someone who was sleeping, an unobserved child, or someone who is incapacitated. Please contact the Kankakee County Health Department to determine if rabies vaccine is needed, call (815) 802-9400, afterhours 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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