

Delaware General Health District

Dedicated to your health

NEWS RELEASE

SECOND RABID BAT FOUND IN CITY OF DELAWARE

P.O. Box 570 1-3 W. Winter St. Delaware OH 43015
740-368-1700 FAX 740-368-1736 Web Site: www.delawarehealth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For further information contact Jesse Carter, public information officer, at 740-203-2085.

DELAWARE, Oh., August 6, 2009 – Another bat with rabies has been discovered in the City of Delaware.

A bat collected Sunday in a Lake Street residence on the city's East Side tested positive for rabies. Fortunately, no one was bitten by the bat. The Delaware General Health District received the test results from the state laboratory Wednesday afternoon.

The rabid bat on Lake Street was discovered six days after another rabid bat bit a woman on North Sandusky Street in Delaware. That resident is receiving precautionary treatment to prevent rabies.

All area residents are reminded to make sure their pets are vaccinated against rabies, and to be on the lookout for bats and other wildlife displaying unusual behavior. Rabies is a viral disease that attacks mammals' nervous systems. In humans, it is fatal unless treated.

Bats are being tested for rabies if they are suspected of exposing a person or persons to the disease. Any bat found inside an occupied home should be tested, as well as any bat that bites or scratches a person or a pet.

Extreme caution needs to be exercised when capturing a live bat for testing. Shut the bat in a room. Once it lands, cover it with a plastic pail or other sturdy container, and then slide stiff cardboard over the opening and tape it shut securely. Always wear heavy leather gloves when you might come into contact with a bat whether it is alive or dead.

For additional information or to ask about getting a bat tested, call the Health District Residential Services Unit at 740-368-1700.

The rabid bat found on Lake Street was the second discovered in Delaware County in 2009. Five were found in Delaware County throughout 2008.

-- 30 --