

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: LEWIS COUNTY RACCOON TESTED POSITIVE FOR RABIES

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

LOWVILLE, NY- Lewis County Public Health has been notified by the New York State Department of Health that a raccoon in the Town of Lowville has tested positive for rabies. This is the fourth raccoon to test positive in Lewis County this year, the other three located in the Towns of Lewis and New Bremen. There was no reported human or domestic animal contact with any of these rabid animals.

Lewis County Public Health reminds all Lewis County residents and those that visit our county that rabies is a very serious and deadly disease affecting the central nervous system. It can be transmitted from infected animals to humans if they are exposed to the saliva or nervous tissue of a rabid animal through a bite or scratch. It is also possible for a person to have contact with a bat and not know it while asleep, therefore all bats that are found in the room of a sleeping person or small child, should be captured and tested for rabies. To view a video on how to safely capture a bat, please visit: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/docs/catch_the_bat_high.wmv

It is very important for people and their pets to avoid direct contact with wild animals, particularly if the animals are behaving abnormally, and ensure your pets are up to date with rabies vaccinations. For information on upcoming rabies vaccination clinics, check the Lewis County Public Health App for details by scanning the QR Code:

Download our app!



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