

<u>Rabies Awareness</u> <u>Notice</u>

May 13, 2025

TO: Persons near Highway 917 and Mount Olive Church Road in Nichols, S.C.

FROM: Terri McCollister, Rabies Program Manager Upstate Public Health Region Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

SUBJECT: RABID FOX

On May 12, 2025, a fox in your area tested positive for rabies.

Due to the possibility of the spread of rabies, DPH urges you to use caution when dealing with wild or stray animals. When you see an animal in need, avoid touching it.

- Contact your local animal control officer for help with pets and other domestic animals.
- Contact a wildlife control operator or wildlife rehabilitator for your area found on the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website to assist you with wild animals.
- DPH team members do not capture or transport live animals.

If you have reason to believe you, someone you know, or your pets have come in contact with this fox or another animal that potentially has rabies, please call DPH's Public Health Conway office at (843) 915-8801 during normal business hours (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday) or after hours and on holidays at (888) 847-0902 (Select Option 2).

If your pet is found with wounds of unknown origin, please consider that your pet could have been exposed to rabies and contact the Conway office. This is especially important as rabies has been confirmed in your area. Use caution when handling injured pets and avoid contact with wounds and saliva. Take any injured pet to a veterinarian so the wounds can be treated and administration of a rabies vaccination can be discussed.

Please remember, proof of rabies vaccination for pets (cats, dogs, and ferrets) is required by the South Carolina Rabies Control Act. If your pet does not have a current rabies vaccination, contact a veterinarian as soon as possible for an appointment. For more information on rabies or to find a low-cost rabies clinic in South Carolina, visit our website: <u>dph.sc.gov/rabies.</u>

We appreciate your cooperation in helping to reduce the spread of rabies in your community.