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## Still no sign of boys in rabid bat case on Fort Myers Beach

By *MARK S. KRZOS*  
*mkrzos@news-press.com*

Lee County Health Department officials are no closer to finding three boys who were seen handling a rabid bat on the Fort Myers Beach Pier on Monday, June 15.

It's now been more than three weeks since the incident and health officials are now hoping that the boys weren't bitten by the Brazilian free tail bat.

If the boys were bitten, symptoms could begin to set in soon. It is recommended that rabies vaccinations begin within 10 days of contact and that the effectiveness of vaccinations diminishes as time goes on.

In almost all cases, rabies is fatal without vaccinations. Symptoms include headaches, anxiety, confusion, muscle spasms and fever.

Meantime, Vicki Little, a senior supervisor for beaches and shoreline for Lee County Parks & Rec, said that another bat was found late this morning at the Beachside Bar & Grill, not far from the Fort Myers Beach Pier.

The bat was taken to Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife on Sanibel for examination.

The bat will not be taken for rabies testing unless someone handled the bat with bare hands or was bitten, said Jennifer James-Mesloh, spokeswoman for the Lee County Health Department.

James-Mesloh, however, did not know the full details of the bat or its finder at this time.

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