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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rabid Bat Confirmed in Estero Area

Fort Myers, FL – A rabid bat was identified in the Estero area. Individuals who had contact with the bat have been notified by the health department and they will be treated with vaccinations.

“Rabies is a fatal disease. There is no known cure for rabies, only vaccination. Therefore, it is critical that people not touch bats or other wild animals with their bare hands. If a bat is visible during the day the likelihood is that it’s sick, so don’t touch it” said Dr. Judith A. Hartner, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A., Director of the Lee County Health Department.

In order to protect yourself and family from rabies it is important to have your veterinarian vaccinate all household pets against rabies. In addition, do not allow your pets to be unattended outside or feed them outside. Outdoor food attracts wild and stray animals which increases the likelihood of coming in contact with a rabid animal.

Everyone is reminded to avoid contact with wild or stray animals. For more information about rabies please visit the following websites:

Florida Department of Health website:

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/environment/medicine/rabies/rabies-education.html>

Centers for Disease Control website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/bats/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/kidsrabies/>

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