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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Raccoon tests positive for rabies in Ticonderoga

Elizabethtown, NY. On Monday, September 29, 2025, a resident reported a raccoon lingering in their field acting strangely. Later that evening, the same animal returned to the residence, displaying aggressive behavior and attempting to enter the home. The resident subsequently destroyed the raccoon.

Following Essex County Health Department's guidance, the animal was safely transferred on Tuesday, September 30, 2025 to Adirondack Veterinary Hospital in Westport for preparation and shipment to the New York State Department of Health's Wadsworth Laboratory. On Wednesday, October 1, 2025, the lab confirmed the animal tested positive for rabies. This is the eighth lab-confirmed case of rabies in Essex County this year—seven in terrestrial animals and one in a bat.

No human exposures were identified through Essex County Health Department's investigation. "In consultation with the New York State Department of Health and in cooperation with the owners and a large animal veterinarian, our Department is ensuring all pets and livestock on the property are vaccinated or receive a booster for rabies," said Jessica Darney Buehler, ECHD's Director of Health Planning and Promotion. "Rabies is almost always fatal once symptoms appear, which is why prevention through vaccination and avoiding contact with wild animals is so important."

"Rabies remains a persistent public health concern that requires ongoing vigilance, as cases continue to emerge almost annually in Essex County," added Linda Beers, ECHD Public Health Director. "Keeping pets up to date on their rabies vaccinations is one of the best ways to reduce potential risks."

To view the 2025 Rabies Clinic Schedule and register your pets, go to <https://essexcountyny.gov/Health/>. The next opportunity to vaccinate your pets for free is Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at the Schroon Lake Firehouse or Thursday, November 6, 2025 at the Elizabethtown DOT.

More information about rabies prevention is viewable on the ECHD website at:
<https://essexcountyny.gov/Health/communicable-disease-control/rabies-center/>

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