

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

January 23, 2014 Contact: Renay Rouse  
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For Immediate Release

## RACCOON TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN STUART

(Martin County, FL) A raccoon that came in contact with a dog in Stuart has tested positive for rabies. The dog was vaccinated, received a booster, and for precautionary purposes will be quarantined and monitored by Martin County Animal Control.

This is the first case of rabies in Martin County this year.

Rabies is a virus that is transmitted from the bite or scratch of a rabid animal. Any mammal can get rabies. The most common carriers of rabies are raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes and coyotes. Domestic mammals can also get rabies. Cats are the most frequently reported rabid domestic animal in the United States.

### Ways to prevent rabies:

- Make sure your pets are up to date with their rabies vaccinations.
- Do not feed or handle wild animals.
- If you see an animal acting strangely, call Martin County Animal Control at 772-463-3211.
- If you get bitten by an animal, wash the wound with soap and water for a least 5 minutes and see a doctor.
- Do not touch dead animals. Use gloves to remove and dispose of the animal properly.
- For more information, log on to: [www.cdc.gov/rabies](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies), or <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/rabies/index.html>



*Renay Rouse*

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