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MARTIN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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BOBCAT TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN PALM CITY

A bobcat that scratched a horse last week has tested positive for rabies. The attack occurred on Thursday, May 21 on Cherokee Street in Palm City. This is the first case of rabies in Martin County this year. Last year three animals tested positive for rabies, including a bobcat, a raccoon and a fox.

The horse will be placed in quarantine for six months.

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.

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