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DOH-Indian River County Issues Rabies Alert

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Fellsmere, Fla.—The Florida Department of Health in Indian River County (DOH-Indian River) is issuing a rabies alert in Indian River County in response to a confirmed case of rabies in a bat that was captured in the Sonrise Apartments area off Sonrise Place in Indian River County on September 24, 2026. If you had contact with or touched the bat that was captured in the Sonrise Apartment area, contact DOH-Indian River at 772-794-7472. DOH-Indian River is monitoring rabies among wild animals in the area. All residents and visitors should be aware that rabies is currently present in the wild animal population. This rabies alert is for 60 days.

People and domestic animals should always avoid physical contact with wild animals (e.g., raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats, coyotes), which carry a higher risk of human exposure and a need for rabies post-exposure treatment. If you are exposed to rabies, receiving appropriate treatment after exposure will protect you from the risk of rabies.

Take the following precautions to prevent rabies exposure:

- Immunize your pets and livestock based on your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- Keep pets under direct supervision and on a leash, and keep livestock secured on your property. If an animal bites your pet or livestock, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact Indian River County Animal Control at 772-226-4799.
- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals, including cats. Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract or feed wild animals or stray cats with outdoor pet food, open garbage cans, or other sources of food. If you have been bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, including stray cats, seek medical attention, and report the injury to DOH-Indian River by calling 772-794-7472.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home; instead, contact a [licensed wildlife rehabilitator](#).
- Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood. Contact Indian River Animal Control at 772-226-4799.
- Prevent wildlife, including [bats](#), from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, schools, and other similar areas where they might come in contact with people and pets.

For more information on rabies, please visit [FloridaHealth.gov/Rabies](https://www.floridahealth.gov/rabies) or contact DOH-Indian River at 772-794-7442.

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