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New Bern, North Carolina

City of New Bern

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage

New Bern Police Department
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Toussaint E. Summers, Jr.
Chief of Police

For Immediate Release

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POLICE INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE DISTEMPER INCIDENTS

New Bern Police report there have been multiple incidents involving wildlife (**foxes and raccoons**) within the past 2 months, leading to a suspicion of a “**Distemper**” outbreak. The first animals were discovered in the River Bend community and tested positive for Distemper.

Since December 30, 2013 New Bern Animal Control Officers have removed three foxes from the Peppercorn and Rosemary area of the Greenbrier community. All three Foxes were showing clinical signs of “Distemper”, but due to state guidelines were NOT tested for the disease.

Although there is NO danger of the disease being transmitted to humans, it is extremely contagious to domestic pets. Your pet can be protected from Distemper by being vaccinated for this disease. If you are unsure if your animal has been vaccinated, contact your veterinarian.

What to look for:

Signs of the disease in its early stages usually will consist of respiratory problems such as: coughing and nasal discharge, but can also be accompanied by diarrhea or vomiting. Later more noticeable progressive signs are more neurological, such as: Walking in circles, head tilts, partial or complete paralysis, convulsions, dementia like symptoms, involuntary jerky or twitching, convulsions (seizures) and mouth chomping (as if smacking chewing gum).

What should I do?

- (1) **Never** approach any wild animal! If you see a wild animal not acting right and showing any of the mentioned signs, call Animal Control at **252-633-2020**. Remember, that just because a wild animal may be out during daylight, it **DOES NOT** mean that this animal is sick or diseased.
- (2) Make sure your pets are current on their vaccinations.
- (3) Do NOT leave pet food outside. As this will often draw wild animals close to your residence and possibly bring them in contact with your pet.
- (4) Lastly, you can also go to www.ncwildlife.org for additional of tips.

The New Bern Police Department is committed to partnering with the community. Citizens are encouraged to become a “**Partner in Policing**,” by reporting suspected illegal activity to the New Bern Police Department’s **TIPS** line at (252) **636-5034** or the Craven County Crime Stoppers line at 633-5141. For additional information, please contact Lt. Ronda Allen, Public Information Officer at the New Bern Police Department at (252) 672-4123.

Toussaint E. Summers, Jr., Chief of Police



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