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Rabid Dog Attacks Children

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Children Receive Inoculations After Attack

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SPARTANBURG COUNTY, S.C. -- The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control is warning residents to be on the alert after two children were attacked by a dog that tested positive for rabies.

Sue Ferguson, with DHEC, said, "The children were in a neighbor's pasture in the town of Pauline when they were attacked by the dog. The children are receiving preventive inoculations."

Ferguson said, "About 400 South Carolinians undergo preventive treatment for rabies every year, with most exposures from being bitten or scratched by a rabid or suspected rabid animal."

This is the 11th confirmed rabid animal in Spartanburg County in 2007. Last year, there were six rabid animals confirmed in the county.

Ferguson said, "Anyone bitten, scratched or otherwise exposed to the saliva of a rabid animal must undergo immediate measures to stop the virus because, once the rabies virus reaches the brain, the disease is fatal to humans and animals.

"Avoid wild animals acting tame and tame animals acting wild. Wild animals carry the disease most often, but, as in this case, domestic pets can also contract rabies," she said.

So far this year, there have been 111 confirmed cases in animals in the state.



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