

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rabies Alert

San Bernardino: County Public Health Officials are trying to find a man who may have been exposed to Rabies. The bat landed on the man's neck outside the book store at Kelso Depot near Mojave National Preserve on Tuesday, April 30, 2013. The bat tested positive for rabies and Public Health officials would like the man to contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health Communicable Disease Section at 1 (800) 722-4794, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. or (909) 356-3805 after business hours and on weekends.

“If you know this man it is very important that we speak with him. Rabies is a deadly disease that can occur when people are exposed to or get bitten by an infected animal,” said Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., County Health Officer. “Rabies is almost always fatal in humans once symptoms begin. Therefore, it is important to seek medical attention as soon as possible for any animal bite or possible rabies exposure.”

The County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health has confirmed two rabid bats so far in 2013. Animals with rabies may act differently from healthy ones. Wild animals may move slowly or may act as if they are tame. A pet that is usually friendly may snap at you or may try to bite. Some signs of rabies in animals are changes in an animal's behavior, general sickness, problems swallowing and/or increased drooling and aggression.

Follow these simple tips to help protect your family and pets from rabies:

- **DO NOT touch, feed, harass or provide shelter for any unfamiliar pets, wild or stray animals.**
- Vaccinate your pets against rabies.
- Do not leave your pets outside unattended or let pets roam free.
- Get pets spayed or neutered. They are less likely to leave home, become strays, and make more stray animals.
- Keep trash cans tightly covered and avoid storing any food outside.
- Bat-proof your home by sealing small openings and keeping unscreened doors and windows closed.
- Teach children never to approach any unfamiliar animals and to tell an adult immediately if they are bitten or scratched by any animal.
- Seek immediate medical attention if you are exposed to or bitten by an animal.

For more information on preventing rabies, please visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/> or call the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Communicable Disease Section at 1 (800) 722-4794, Monday – Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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