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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Stray Dog in the Tomball Area Tests Positive for Rabies**

On the evening of January 23, 2015, Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) and Houston Department of Health and Human Services (HDHHS) received confirmation from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that a **stray dog in the Tomball area (ZIP code 77377) has tested positive for rabies**. The stray dog showed no signs of illness when picked up as well as during monitoring by the City of Houston BARC Animal Shelter & Adoptions. The dog was a brown/black Labrador Retriever mix approximately 1-year old. A picture of the dog is attached.

HCPHES and HDHHS want to be sure any person who may have had **direct physical contact with the dog between the dates of January 4-10, 2015** is evaluated for potential risk of rabies infection.

**It is recommended that anyone who was bitten or had contact with the saliva of the dog, or knows of someone who had contact with the dog, call HCPHES Veterinary Public Health (VPH) at 281-999-3191 as soon as possible.**

HCPHES will be:

- Providing rabies information to residents in the area;
- Conducting additional surveillance activities;
- Providing information to healthcare providers and veterinarians;
- Working closely with local, state, and federal partners to ensure the public's health & well-being.

**Rabies is a serious infection** that can be transmitted to a person by contact with infected saliva through a bite or contact with mucous membranes (i.e. eyes, nose, and mouth).

Please observe these important precautions:

- Maintain current rabies vaccinations on all dogs and cats four months of age and older.
- Confine all pets or keep them on a leash.
- All persons, especially children, are warned to avoid all sick or injured animals.
- Stray or wild animals including skunks and bats should be avoided.
- Report all animal bites or scratches that break the skin and any physical contact with bats (with or without a bite) to your area animal control agency.
- Report loose animals to your area animal control agency.

For more information, call:

- HCPHES Veterinary Public Health **281-999-3191** [www.hcphe.org](http://www.hcphe.org)
- City of Houston BARC Animal Control & Adoptions **713-229-7300** [www.houstontx.gov/barc](http://www.houstontx.gov/barc)



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