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JP resident exposed to rabid raccoon; neighbors warned

September 21, 2010 05:16 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

A Jamaica Plain resident who came in contact with a rabid raccoon Sunday is receiving post-exposure treatment for the serious illness that affects the central nervous system.

The raccoon has been captured, and the city's Public Health Commission warned area residents about the case today and reminded them to "steer clear of stray and wild animals." Officials plan to distribute fliers in Jamaica Plain to alert residents to the rabies case and instruct them on what to do if they think they have been exposed.

When the health commission was notified late Monday by the state Laboratory Institute that a raccoon picked up in Jamaica Plain on Sunday was rabid, an investigation began to determine whether anyone had been exposed to the rabid animal, officials said.

Health officials would not comment further on the exposed person's condition or say how the person had been in contact with the animal.

The JP encounter was announced as another rabid animal was reported in Weymouth. Two police officers were treated after an [encounter with a rabid fox](#), which had attacked a dog tied to a tree in a back yard.

Rabies, a rare illness caused by a virus, spreads to animals or people through saliva (spit) of infected animals, usually occurring after a bite or scratch from an animal with the disease, health officials said.

Any mammal can get rabies, but it is more commonly found in raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats, dogs, and cats.

For more information about rabies, please contact the Boston Public Health Commission, Infectious Disease Bureau at 617-534-5611.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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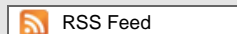
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