

For Immediate Release

September 16, 2020

Plano Animal Services Urges Caution After Recent Rabies Case

Plano Animal Services Director Jamey Cantrell reports a bat tested positive for rabies this week after it came into contact with a resident in the area of W. 15th Street and Custer Road. Rabies is a viral disease occurring in warm-blooded animals and can be contracted by humans through bites from infected animals. “This positive test highlights the importance of being cautious around wildlife and always reporting any contact with them,” said Cantrell. “It also shows why it’s so important to keep all pet vaccinations current, especially rabies. There is no way to predict when a pet may come into contact with a wild animal.” Texas law and [Plano city ordinances](#) require animals receive rabies inoculations along with subsequent booster shots for the duration of the animal’s life.

The Plano Animal Shelter does not routinely test wild animals for rabies unless they have had contact with a person or pet and are one of five high risk non-domestic animals: bats, foxes, skunks, coyotes and raccoons.

This particular incident involved a resident who had contact with a bat. The bat was ill and died before Animal Services could pick it up. Due to the nature of the situation, the animal was tested and subsequently found to be rabid.

Rabies is preventable. The Shelter hosts low-cost rabies vaccination clinic on the third Friday of every month. The next clinic is on Friday, September 18th. We urge all pet-owners to take advantage of this opportunity for their pet’s health and the health of their human family. A [list of other available reduced cost vaccination clinics](#) are posted on the city’s Animal Services webpage.

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Editor’s Note: Go to the City’s [Media Center](#) for comprehensive information about the City of Plano.

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About Plano

Plano, Texas, is the largest city in Collin County with a population of 284,070 as of January 2019. Incorporated in 1873, the city is located 20 miles north of Dallas. Niche and AreaVibes recently named Plano as one of the Best Cities to Live in America. Forbes designated Plano one of America's safest cities. The City offers a high quality of life that includes nationally recognized schools, award-winning parks, and sustainability initiatives and a wide variety of multi-cultural neighborhoods appealing to families, young singles and retirees. Plano is home to the headquarters or regional operations of major corporations such as Toyota, Liberty Mutual, JPMorgan Chase, Boeing Global Services, Fannie Mae, FedEx Office, JC Penney, Rent-A-Center, Cinemark Holdings, Denbury Resources and Alliance Data Systems. Our dynamic community features excellent restaurants, vibrant shopping and entertainment venues, a lively historic downtown district and active local arts scene. Easy access to DART light rail and major highways makes Plano a convenient place to live, work and visit. To learn more about Plano, go to our website at plano.gov.