

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
(06/01/06)

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Tests Confirm Rabies in Cat Involved in Attack and Bite of Three Humans

The Humane Society of Berks County, Berks County's leader in animal welfare, issued an urgent warning to residents in the Lenhartsville, Albany Township, area following the positive rabies test result of a cat involved in attacks on multiple people yesterday.

"Anyone who may have come into contact with this cat should immediately notify the State Health Department and the Humane Society," said Humane Society executive director, Karel I. Minor. "Rabies is a deadly disease and requires immediate treatment."

On Wednesday, May 31, a cat attacked a sixty year-old grandmother and her six year-old grandchild at her Sousley Road, Lenhartsville, residence. A State Police Trooper was also bitten while attempting to capture cat. Although the Trooper shot the cat in the jaw and throat, it escaped and was later discovered by the female victim's husband. Family members had seen the stray cat during the past few months, at which time it was behaving normally. The cat was a brown tabby with a white underside.

Officers from the Humane Society, which provides animal control services to Albany Township as part of its charitable mission, responded to the police call and collected the body of the cat. It was transported to the PA Department of Health Lab in Lionville for testing. **The Humane Society and the PA Department of Health are calling on anyone who feels that they may have come in contact with these animals to**

immediately call the Health Department at 1-877-PA HEALTH and the Humane Society at 610-921-2348.

Rabies is a contagious viral disease that is nearly universally fatal. The sole survivor of a clinical onset of rabies known to have survived in all of human history suffered severe, irreparable brain damage. “Rabies is a horrible disease and no one should take any chances,” said Minor. “If you were exposed, please contact the appropriate authorities immediately!”

The Humane Society of Berks County serves all of Berks County and surrounding communities. It is a private, non-profit organization funded through donations and service fees. In addition to enforcing Pennsylvania’s animal cruelty laws, the Humane Society offers adoption services, spay and neuter services, humane education, pet behavioral counseling, and helps stray, injured and mistreated animals. The Humane Society of Berks County is located at 1801 N. 11th Street, Reading.

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