

For Immediate Release

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## Plano Animal Services urges Caution in Wake of Second Rabies Case

Animal Service Director Jamey Cantrell reports Plano Animal Services had a second bat in the last week test positive for rabies. This bat was tested after it came into contact with a resident in the area of W. Parker Road and Independence Parkway. Rabies is a viral disease that occurs 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. It also shows why keeping all pets’ vaccinations current – especially rabies – is important since there is no way to predict when a pet may come into contact with a wild animal,” says Cantrell. Both State of Texas and [Plano city ordinances](#) require that animals receive the rabies inoculation 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 that 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 and a special vaccination clinic will be held on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. All pet-owners are urged to make sure their pets are vaccinated for their pets’ health and the health of their human family. If an owner cannot make this clinic, 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](http://plano.gov).