

February 1, 2024

CORRECTION



DOH-ST. LUCIE ISSUES RABIES ADVISORY

Contact: Jennifer.Harris@flhealth.gov
Public Information Officer
772-785-5838

St. Lucie County, Fla. – The Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County (DOH-St. Lucie) is monitoring rabies among wild animals in the area. All residents and visitors should be aware that rabies may be currently present in the wild animal population.

Additionally, DOH-St. Lucie is responding to a bat-related incident at **TouchStar Cinemas** in Sabal Palm Plaza at **2617 2539 S US-1, Fort Pierce, Florida**. If you recently visited this location, especially if you came in contact with a bat while present in this establishment, contact DOH-St. Lucie. Receiving appropriate treatment quickly will protect you from the risk of [rabies](#).

Contact Information: DOH-St. Lucie
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.: 772 – 462 – 3883
Weekends or after hours: 772 – 462 – 3800.

People and domestic animals should always avoid physical contact with wild animals, especially bats, which carry a higher risk of human exposure and a need for rabies post-exposure treatment.

Take the following precautions for you and your pets:

- Keep your pets under direct supervision and on a leash so they do not come in contact with wild or stray animals. If an animal bites your pet, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact [City of Fort Pierce Animal Control Division](#).
- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Do not handle, feed, or unintentionally attract them with open garbage cans or litter.
- Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood. Contact [City of Fort Pierce Animal Control Division](#) at 772-467-3720, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. To request an animal control officer before or after office hours, please dial 911.
- Immunize your pets based on your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- [Prevent bats from entering](#) living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, schools, and other similar areas where they might come in contact with people and pets.

- For more information on rabies, please visit [FloridaHealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov).