



**PRESS RELEASE – Sept. 6, 2016**  
**Police Department: 972-625-1887**

## **Bat tests positive for rabies**

THE COLONY, Texas - On Friday, Sept. 2, 2016, staff at Peters Colony Elementary, located at 5101 Nash Drive, located a live bat inside a tree trunk near the school playground. School faculty immediately closed access to that area and contacted The Colony Animal Services Division.

Animal Control Services captured the bat, euthanized it, and sent the specimen for testing to the Department of Health in Austin. The results received today indicated a positive test for rabies. There have been no reports of any human exposure prior to the bat being quarantined by The Colony Animal Control Services. If you believe you were exposed to this bat, please contact the Denton County Public Health Department immediately at 940-349-2900.



Rabies is a virus that affects the nervous system of humans and other mammals. A person may contract rabies through a bite, scratch, or saliva from an infected animal. A bat bite or scratch may not be seen or even felt by the injured person due to the small size of its teeth and claws. A potential rabies exposure should never be taken lightly. If untreated, rabies is fatal.

Wild animals such as bats, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and foxes are high-risk animals for the transmission of rabies. Many of these animals are more active at night and approaching or handling them should be absolutely avoided. Seeing these animals during the daytime may be a sign of rabies or other illness in the animal.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Denton County Public Health Department at 940-349-2900 or The Colony Animal Services Division at 972-370-9250.

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