



Promoting
healthy
communities

April 19, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Muggeo, Director of Health
Ledge Light Health District
216 Broad Street, New London, CT 06320
860-448-4882 ext. 1300
jmuggeo@llhd.org
www.llhd.org

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

RACCOON TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES IN NIANTIC

A **RACCOON** FOUND ON **JOYCE COURT** IN THE **TOWN OF EAST LYME (NIANTIC)** WAS TESTED AND FOUND TO BE **POSITIVE** FOR RABIES ON **April 19, 2024**. **THE PUBLIC SHOULD REFRAIN FROM FEEDING OR APPROACHING ANY WILD OR STRAY ANIMALS.**

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that can infect all warm-blooded animals, including people. It is spread mostly by wild animals, but stray cats and dogs may also become infected and spread the virus. The rabies virus lives in the saliva and brain tissue of infected animals. Rabies can be spread by scratches from infected animals or when infected saliva comes into contact with open wounds, breaks in the skin or mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth, etc.)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ledge Light Health District at 860-448-4882 or the **EAST LYME ANIMAL CONTROL** at 860-739-3419.

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Ledge Light Health District – LLHD – serves as the local health department for East Lyme, Groton, Ledyard, Lyme, New London, North Stonington, Old Lyme, Stonington and Waterford, Connecticut. As a health district, formed under Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-241, LLHD is a special unit of government, allowing member municipalities to provide comprehensive public health services to residents in a more efficient manner by consolidating the services within one organization.