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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORANGE COUNTY REPORTS FIFTH POSITIVE RABIES TEST FOR 2013

ORANGE COUNTY, NC (April 25, 2013)—The Orange County Animal Services Department is reporting its fifth positive rabies result of the year from the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health. Last year, the County recorded a total of 12 positive cases.

The case originated on April 22, when a two-month-old goat belonging to a small family farm in northern Orange County, passed away. The goat was one of seven in a small herd on the farm and had begun showing symptoms of illness at the end of March.

It had been treated for various possibilities during March and toward mid-April, several family members and one neighbor began taking turns bottle feeding the sick animal. Upon its death, the goat was sent to the State Laboratory for rabies testing, and results were shared with Animal Services, the Orange County Health Department and the Department of Agriculture, which has jurisdiction over livestock matters throughout the state.

A Communicable Disease Nurse from the Orange County Health Department has been in contact with the family to discuss post-exposure prophylaxis that protects people from rabies. At least three people who had contact with the goat have begun treatment. Anyone with questions regarding rabies exposure to humans can contact Communicable Disease Nurse Cathy York at 919.245.2343.

A veterinarian from the Department of Agriculture has placed the remaining six goats under a six-month quarantine for observation. Other family pets include a dog and cat, neither of which had any exposure to the goat or spend unsupervised time outdoors.

There are now approved vaccinations for horses, cattle and sheep. The Department of Agriculture recommends people who keep such livestock have their animals vaccinated. The sheep vaccine can also be administered to goats and the Department

of Agriculture recommends goat owners have this done. The vaccines must be administered by a licensed veterinarian in all circumstances.

In North Carolina, livestock exhibited as part of a petting zoo or in a setting where there will be contact with the public are required to be vaccinated against rabies.

Questions about rabies in livestock can be directed to Carol Woodlief, veterinarian for the Department of Agriculture at 919.733.7601.

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