



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Bureau of Infectious Disease and Laboratory Sciences  
Department of Public Health  
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On Monday, May 20, 2024, a cat from Middleton, Massachusetts tested positive for rabies at the Massachusetts State Public Health Laboratory. The cat was a tabby cat and is shown in the pictures below.



This cat lived in the area of Park Ave in Middleton and is known to have had contact with people in the area.

Rabies is a serious disease but illness in people can be prevented following an exposure by prompt administration of rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. Any person who was exposed to the cat's saliva through a bite, scratch, fresh wound, feeding or got cat saliva in their eyes, nose or mouth, has had a high-risk exposure. **If you or someone you know may have had contact with this cat between May 5, 2024 and May 15, 2024, please contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) at 617-983-6800 (available 24 hours), or your health care provider.** People who did not have any contact with the cat are not at risk from rabies.

If you have a pet that may have had contact with the cat, please contact the Middleton Animal Control Officer for further information at 508-910-1840.