

## **Rabies in Eugene**

September marked the eighth bat to test positive for rabies in Oregon this year, and the second bat to test positive in the last two months in Lane County. This last incident hit close to home. A client of Bush Animal Hospital awoke to a dead bat on their door step courtesy of one of their outdoor cats. The bat was promptly sent in to be tested for rabies, the results were positive.

The previous incident involved a Boy Scout troop on a canoeing trip. The troop departed from Eugene making their way down the Willamette River, 3 miles north of Corvallis the boys found a bat floating in the river and picked it up. Later testing confirmed the bat did in fact have rabies. A previous incident involved an unvaccinated dog that was bitten by a rabid bat in Corvallis, Oregon.

Pets (dogs, cats and ferrets): if previously vaccinated and with a current rabies vaccine, will need to be re-vaccinated and quarantined for 45 days. If not current in their vaccine (expired vaccine or never vaccinated), the animal could either be vaccinated and quarantined for 6 months or euthanized.

The doctors and staff at Bush Animal Hospital would like to stress the importance of insuring your pet is properly vaccinated for rabies. Remember, rabies is nearly always fatal in animals and people.