Welcome Back

Rabies cases in Orange County hits 15

By Joey DeVito Staff Writer

This article appeared in an earlier edition of The Daily Tar Heel. It has been updated and edited for space.

MAY 29 - Orange Countyis seeing its biggest year for rabies since 2008.

So far in 2014, there have been 15 positive test results showing rabies. In 2012 and 2013, there were 13 reported cases of rabies each year, according to reports from the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services.

Carl Williams, the state public health veterinarian, said an increased number of reported rabies cases may not reflect an increase in the spread of the virus.

Rabies affects the central nervous system, causing problems in the brain. If it goes untreated, rabies can result in death. The virus can be passed between mammals through coming into contact with the saliva or the brain or nervous tissue of an infected animal.

Williams said scientists have a hard time figuring out the prevalence of rabies, which originates in wild

animals. It is nearly impossible to count the number of animals in the wild and determine how many have the virus.

"You can look and say objectively that 13 (cases) is larger than 10, but if you don't know the population from which you're drawing, then vou don't want to make many inferences about it," he said.

Williams said the strand of rabies found on the East Coast originates from raccoons.

"A raccoon may be infected for several weeks, whereas a cat, once it becomes infectious, is going to die within four or five days," he said. "There is less opportunity for them to spread the virus."

Jason Allen, the district biologist that oversees Orange County, said one way to cut down on the spread of the disease is to avoid leaving food outside for pets or raccoons.

"A lot of the cases that we see are in urban areas where this type of thing is going on," he said.

If animals share the same food, rabies can be spread by one infected animal's saliva.

"If one raccoon has rabies. there's a good chance that

every raccoon that eats out of that bowl of dog food will get rabies," Allen said.

Jim Orr, Chapel Hill's parks and recreation director, said residents should be on the lookout for potential rabies cases. "It's a combination of everybody that uses our facilities just to be more aware of the areas around them and making sure that if someone does see a stray animal, report it," Orr said.

While the number of rabies cases in Orange County is rising, Orr said the virus has not been a problem in Chapel Hill in the four years he has been with parks and recreation.

"I know that the number of cases that have been brought to my attention in Chapel Hill are very, very low," he said.

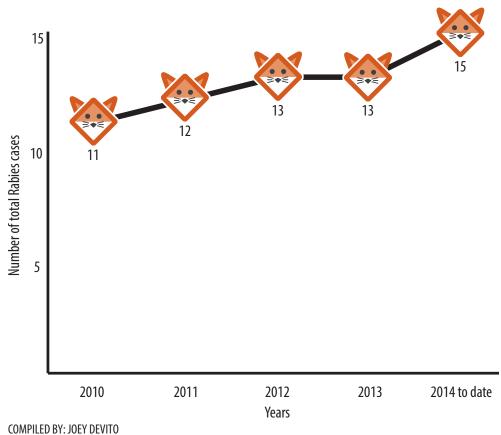
Williams said the disease can be found year-round, but the summer does see more.

"The difference is, we have more animals submitted for testing and, consequently, more positive animals in the summer just because it's summer, and people are outside," he said.

> Contact the desk editor at city@dailytarheel.com.

ORANGE COUNTY RABIES CASES 2009-2014 TO DATE

Rabies cases countywide have remained relatively unchanged over the past five years, but Orange County is already experiencing more cases this year than it has total in any year since 2009.



SOURCE: STATE LABORATORY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

DTH/EMMA LOCKWOOD, TYLER VAHAN

UNC pharmacy professor beaten, slain

By Leah Komada and **Claire Nielson** Staff Writer

This article appeared in an earlier edition of The Daily Tar Heel. It has been updated and edited for space.

Professor Feng Liu was on West University Drive when he was overcome by two men, robbed and badly beaten.

Liu, 59, was found in a residential area about five minutes from UNC's Eshelman School of Pharmacy – where he worked. He was taken to UNC Hospitals, and

he later died from his injuries. Police have arrested and charged Durham resident Derick Davis II, 23, and Chapel Hill resident Troy Arrington Jr., 27, with first-degree murder as well as felony counts of assault and robbery.

With over 100 peer reviewed publications in academic journals, Liu was mourned by the scientific community all over the world.

"I think when people think of him they think of seeing him at every faculty meeting or seminar we have, or student presentation, or every social

event - he was always there," said Russell Mumper, vice dean of the pharmacy school. "You just kinda knew, you're not quite sure who's gonna be there but Feng will be there, and he's gonna be smiling and happy."

Mumper said Liu was a mentor to students, visiting scientists and international students in his lab, where his research focused on developing drugs to treat cancer.

"He was an inspiring mentor because students want to be interested in the field, they want to be inspired to do research, they want

to work in someone's lab who's very enthusiastic – he epitomized that," he said.

Grief counselors were available for staff members at the pharmacy school. Representatives from Liu's family declined to comment.

Liu died from head injuries, said Lt. Josh Mecimore, a spokesman for the Chapel Hill Police Department. Arrington and David were each in possession of a blunt object, according to police reports.

Chapel Hill Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt said Liu's death was a loss for the entire Chapel Hill community. "A safe and secure environment is fundamental

to our quality of life in Chapel Hill and, as a community, we must not tolerate such senseless violence," Kleinschmidt said in a statement.

"The town and the University continue to partner on those matters impacting quality of life in Chapel Hill, public safety being chief among them."

Davis has been convicted in the past of felony breaking

and entering coupled with larceny — including theft of a motor vehicle – and assault. He was last released from prison in October, according to records from the North Carolina Department of Corrections.

Corrections department records show Arrington has been convicted for assault on a female and the possession of a firearm by a felon. He was last released from prison in November 2012.

> Contact the desk editor at city@dailytarheel.com.



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Back

now. Slow down and get dreamy Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today is an 8 -- New challenges test old quences. Benefit from someone else's on the town and play.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Today is a 7 -- Imagine new strategies. Value what you already have. Work on the foundation of your plan. Travel flows easier now, but do you have the energy?

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

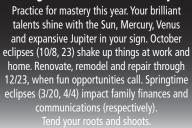
Today is a 6 -- Take it slow and hang out with friends. Chaos and obstacles could plague a journey or effort. Either tough it out or postpone and get some rest instead. Take small, practical steps.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Today is a 6 -- If the first idea doesn't

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Today is a 7 -- Edit and organize before announcing a change in direction. Choose private over public. Don't over-extend. All is not as it appears to be, and jealousies could arise between siblings. Accept love as offered.

If August 16th is Your Birthday...

HOROSCOPES



Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today is a 7 -- Obstacles arise in unexpect ed places. You could lose a lot. Play by the rules. Get a boost from a friend. Don't worry, you'll think of something. Take care

skills. Maintain objectivity. A partner can help. Consider all options and consefantasy. Don't touch your savings. Get out

Leisure and introspection can be very nice

work, come up with something else. Family comes first. Compile comprehensive reports. A partner completes the plans. Logic wins over emotion. A touch of mystery doesn't hurt.

Unwind Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Today is a 7 -- Take a long view with a partnership. Rules can be bent, but don't break them. Avoid provoking jealousies Work out a deceptive issue. Keep your word, and stay in communication. Honorable actions win respect.

Today is a 6 -- You can afford to be gra-cious. Persuade a grump with treats. Don't over-extend... rest and relaxation with

friends suits you fine. Talk about dreams,

and get ideas. Stay flexible despite chaos.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Today is an 8 -- Don't get carried away. Work and travel could get turbulent today. Watch for hidden agendas. Postpone expansion. Talk about dreams with an older person, for a more experienced view. Take care of your health.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Today is a 6 -- Confusion, jealousies or roadblocks could slow progress. Wait on

big decisions, launches or to sign papers. Give in to fun, make-believe and mystery. Play games, or have a costume party. Get inspired by fantasies

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is a 5 -- The previously impossible starts to seem do-able (especially at home) Be respectful, yet strong-willed. Stay out of the line of fire. You won't like some of the answers. Follow your dream anyway.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today is a 6 -- Sort out facts before acting. Unplug, when daunted by haywire communications. Don't spend what you don't have. Listen for divine inspiration (and find it in nature). Avoid a wild goose chase, by staying home

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