



Town of Ponce Inlet POLICE DEPARTMENT



Frank Fabrizio ★ Police Chief

The Ponce Inlet Police Department wants you to be aware of potential dangers when raccoons are acting strangely. We have seen an increase in raccoons that may have contracted distemper disease. Raccoons with distemper may begin to wander aimlessly in a circle, curl up and sleep in open areas, appear drunk, disoriented, unaware of its surroundings or other bizarre behaviors. While distemper poses no health risk to humans, it can pose a threat to your dogs and cats.

Distemper lives outside of the body for an extended period of time and can be transmitted through feces, saliva or skin. The disease is transmitted through airborne droplets (inhalation), direct contact with body fluids, saliva or raccoon droppings.

To protect dogs and cats, owners are advised to:

- Make sure pets are up to date on vaccines for distemper
- Do not let your pet roam free
- Keep pets away from trash
- Feed pets indoors and **do not feed raccoons**
- If your pet seems to have any symptoms of distemper (as listed above), take them to a vet immediately



The Ponce Inlet Police Department has received several calls in the last week about raccoons with distemper-type symptoms. We ask people to call the police or animal control at (386) 248-1777, if they see a raccoon with unusual behavior or if it appears to be unhealthy.