

Village of Tinley Park

News Release



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Tularemia-infected rabbit discovered in Tinley Park

The Illinois State Public Health Laboratory recently announced that a dead rabbit discovered June 13 in the 7500 block of West 161st Place has tested positive for the Tularemia virus.

“If you have been exposed to a dead rabbit or handled a dead rabbit, contact your doctor,” Cook County Animal and Rabies Control Deputy Director Mark Rosenthal said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, Tularemia is a disease caused by the bacterium *Francisella tularensis* that includes symptoms ranging from mild to life-threatening. All forms are accompanied by fever, which can be as high as 104 °F.

The Village is advising that all resident keep their dogs and cats on a leash when outside and prevent them from coming into contact with dead wildlife. Residents should not handle deceased rabbits or other deceased wildlife such as skunks and bats.

If residents find dead rabbits on their property, they should call the Cook County Department of Animal Control at (708) 974-6140.

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