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The Witness

11 October 2018

Infected pup sparks risk of rabies

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A LOCAL mother who lost her son to rabies after he was licked by a dog several years ago has urged people to be more careful after a rabid puppy was brought in to the Kloof and Highway SPCA last Monday.

In a statement, Kloof and Highway SPCA spokesperson Brigitte Ferguson said a cross breed puppy was brought to the SPCA reception "by a kind member of public who had found it in her garden in Wyebank".

The statement said the puppy was brought in a box and reception staff "immediately noticed that there was something wrong with it".

"When examined the puppy was observed to have neurological issues and was extremely vocal. The decision was immediately made to humanly euthanase the puppy and it was sent to the state vet for rabies testing," she said.

The results came back as positive.

"When our staff received the positive rabies result, the woman was immediately contacted and the seriousness of the situation explained to her, she also confirmed that five people had been in contact with the puppy before it was brought into the SPCA."

A local mother who lost her son to rabies several years ago and asked not to be named said she hoped those who had been in contact with the puppy had taken rabies vaccinations. "Rabies is more than just a bite or scratch. Rabies can be transferred through saliva"