For Immediate Release:       For More Information, Contact:
January 15, 2016    Michelle Feist
ELC Program Manager
Phone: 701.328.2378
E-mail: mafeist@nd.gov

Kitten Found in Fargo Davies Parking Lot in November Tests Positive for Rabies:
People Who May Have Kittens from Same Litter are Urged to Contact the
North Dakota Department of Health

Fargo, N.D. – The North Dakota Department of Health (NDDoH) and the State Veterinarian’s
Office are requesting assistance from the public in locating kittens that were in or near the Fargo
Davies High School parking lot around November 18, 2015. Anyone who may have knowledge
of kittens is asked to call the NDDoH immediately.

A kitten found in the Fargo Davies High School parking lot in November recently developed
illness and tested positive for rabies. When the kitten was originally found, it did not exhibit
signs of rabies and would not have been contagious. Those who had contact with the kittens in
the parking lot in November are not at risk for developing rabies. However, the kitten was likely
exposed to the rabies virus prior to November 18, 2015, which means that other kittens in the
same litter may have also been exposed and may become contagious if they develop the disease.
A second kitten, which was found at the same time and in the same place, has been located and is
currently being isolated.

The kittens were around 6 weeks of age and no further information regarding their origins is
available. If there are additional kittens from this litter, they may have been exposed to the virus
and will need to be examined by a veterinarian and isolated to ensure that they do not have
rabies. People who may have information about additional kittens from this litter are asked to
call the NDDoH Division of Disease Control at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378.

Rabies is a viral infection that affects mammals, including humans. The virus can be transmitted
through saliva and through brain or nervous system tissue. It is most often transmitted through a
bite from a rabid animal, but it can also be transmitted when a rabid animal’s saliva enters an
open cut or wound, or mucous membranes (i.e., eyes, nose, or mouth). The virus causes swelling
of the brain and is almost always fatal. Rabies can be prevented in humans after they are exposed
by administering the rabies vaccine. Domestic animals infected with rabies, such as dogs, cats,
and ferrets, are contagious for only a few days prior to onset of illness and eventual death.
For more information, please visit www.ndhealth.gov/disease/Rabies/ or contact the Division of Disease Control at 800.472.2180 or 701.328.2378. For information regarding animals and rabies, contact Dr. Carlson, Deputy State Veterinarian, North Dakota Department of Agriculture, at 701.328.2655.