

---

HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 12, 2012

**For additional information contact:  
Bill Anstey at (616) 632-7278**

## **Iguana missing near the 500 block of Carrier NE**

The Kent County Animal Shelter was informed earlier today of a lost 4 foot iguana missing near the 500 block of Carrier NE, Grand Rapids. The Animal Shelter along with the Grand Rapids Police Department are advising people who might come in contact with the iguana to keep their distance and contact either the Kent County Animal Shelter at (616) 632-7300 or the Grand Rapids police department at (616) 456-3400.

Iguanas are usually harmless, however, when stressed they can bite, scratch, and whip their tails. Iguanas belong to the lizard family and are native to tropical areas of Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. Iguanas are often hard to spot as they have the ability to blend into their surrounding environment. Common iguanas are among the largest lizards in the Americas, averaging around 6.5 feet long and weighing about 11 pounds. Since iguanas feed on leaves, flowers, and fruit, they do not pose a threat to small pets. They are also among the most popular reptile pets in the United States, despite being quite difficult to care for properly. In fact, most captive iguanas die within the first year, and many are either turned loose by their owners or given to reptile rescue groups.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

700 FULLER AVE. NE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503