



April 25, 2022

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### Rabies Exposure

**Copperas Cove, Texas** - On April 22, 2022 at about 1:20 pm, a Copperas Cove Animal Control Officer was dispatched to the 3600 block of Big Divide Road, Copperas Cove, Texas, in reference to a skunk that was acting in a strange manner. The Animal Control Officer was able to capture the skunk. The animal was humanely euthanized and was sent for testing at the Texas Department of Health Laboratory, Austin Texas.

On April 25, 2022, Copperas Cove Animal Control received notification from the Texas Department of Health that the skunk was infected with rabies.

Any citizen who believes they, or their pet, or has knowledge of a person or animal having any contact with a skunk, or other wild animal in this area should immediately contact Copperas Cove Animal Control at (254) 547-5584 (after hours contact the Copperas Cove Police Department at (254) 547-8222). Also contact your physician and/or veterinarian in the case of a possible animal exposure.

Rabies infection is most common in Bats, Coyotes, Raccoons, Skunks, and Foxes.

Signs of rabies infection in a human may include, but are not limited to fever, headaches, fatigue, respiration difficulties, possible paralysis or hyperactivity, and/or coma.

Signs of rabies infection in pets may include fever, chewing at site of infection or bite, erratic behavior, walking aimlessly, general restlessness, skin irritability, sensitivity to light, aggression in animals not normally aggressive, and generally unnatural behavior for that animal.

Citizens are warned not to approach, touch or have any contact with wild animals, and to keep their pets from having contact with wild animals. Steps should be taken to safeguard their outside areas by covering garbage cans, not leaving pet food outside, etc.

Anyone observing a wild animal acting strangely should contact Animal Control immediately.

