



September 19, 2024

Deputy Chief Jeremy Alber, Copperas Cove Police Department
jalber@copperascovetx.gov

302 East Avenue E
Copperas Cove, Texas
Phone: (254) 518-7851

Rabies Exposure

Copperas Cove, Texas - On September 16, 2024 at about 11:20 am, a Copperas Cove Animal Control Officer was dispatched to the 900 block of Marilyn Drive, Copperas Cove, Texas, in reference to a skunk attacking a feral kitten. The mother feline was able to scare the skunk away. Animal Control Officers took the injured feral kitten for humane euthanasia before testing could be completed at the Texas Department of Health Laboratory, Austin Texas. The Animal Control Officers were unable to capture the skunk, as it departed to the nearby wooded area.

On September 19, 2024, Copperas Cove Animal Control received notification from the Texas Department of Health that the kitten 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.





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