



September 25, 2024

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Rabies Exposure

Copperas Cove, Texas - On September 23, 2024 at about 10:05 am, a Copperas Cove Animal Control Officer was dispatched to a call in reference to a deceased skunk that was located by a citizen in the 800 Block of Massengale Circle, Copperas Cove, Texas. Animal Control Officers took possession of the deceased skunk, which was sent to the Texas Department of Health Laboratory, Austin Texas for testing.

On September 25, 2024, 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.

