



ARLINGTON ANIMAL SERVICES
A DIVISION OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
March 12, 2009

RABIES NOTICE

The Texas Department of State Health Services Rabies Laboratory reported a skunk from a southeast Arlington neighborhood has tested positive for rabies. Animal Service officials have determined, after investigation, a disoriented skunk was reported as being observed in the backyard of a residence, in the area of Sharon Lee Dr.

Skunks are seldom seen during daylight hours. Those that are seen during the daytime hours may be infected with the rabies virus and should be reported to Animal Services immediately. Skunks should never be approached under any circumstances day or night. If you see one during the day, make sure people or pets do not get near the skunk. It is also important to notify Animal Services if any people, pets or livestock come into contact with a skunk even if the skunk is no longer in the area.

Rabies is always fatal! People and animals may become infected with the rabies virus if an animal that has the disease bites or scratches them. Anyone who is exposed must take a series of post-exposure injections to prevent them from becoming infected with this fatal disease.

You should also note that in addition to skunks, bats, raccoons, foxes, and coyotes are all high-risk carriers of the disease. Any wild animal that does not show fear of humans, appears sick or sluggish, should not be approached under any circumstances!

All pet owners are reminded that all dogs and cats are required by state law to be vaccinated against rabies by 4 months of age and on a 1 year or 3 year basis thereafter depending on the type of vaccine used. We also encourage all owners of livestock to consider vaccinating their animals as recommended by a licensed veterinarian.

Please help us maintain safe and livable neighborhoods by vaccinating your pets.

For more information please contact:
Arlington Animal Services at 817-459-6098 or 817-459-6158
<http://www.arlingtontx.gov/animals>