



RABIES ADVISORY

Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment (WCDPHE) is reporting a skunk picked up in the 300 block of South Dorothy in Milliken tested positive for rabies.

Do not attempt to feed, approach, or touch wild animals. If you see a wild animal alive and acting abnormally in this area, report the animal to the Milliken Police Department or the Division of Wildlife (970) 472-4300.

- **What is rabies?**
 - Rabies is an illness caused by a virus. The illness causes problems to the brain and nervous system and is almost always fatal. Any mammal is capable of carrying the virus; most common are skunks and bats.

Protection

The Health Department recommends these helpful tips to protect yourself, family, and pets.

- **Vaccinate your pets**
 - Rabies vaccines must be given by a licensed veterinarian; and is the best protection for your pet. Keep rabies vaccinations current with booster shots as recommended by your veterinarian. **If a pet is not vaccinated for rabies and comes in contact with a rabid animal it will have to be euthanized or placed in isolation for 180 days at the owners expense.**
 - **NEW PUPPIES AND KITTENS:** it is *extremely important* to keep a close eye on your new pet while it is outdoors until it has received the rabies vaccine and for 28 days after. The puppy/kitten rabies shot is valid for a year.
- **What to look for and immediately report**
 - An animal showing the following symptoms:
 - Nocturnal animals seen out during the day
 - Slow or difficulty moving, appears sick
 - Acts as if tame
 - Increases in saliva, drooling
 - Acting aggressive, especially trying to attack or bite at an animal it would normally avoid (such as skunk vs. dog)
- **If bitten:** wash the area with soap and water, call your doctor and report the bite to your local animal control.

For additional information on rabies prevention contact the Weld County Department of Public Health and Environment at 970-304-6415