Enhanced Rabies Surveillance Testing for Select Areas of the Trans Pecos, West Central and South Texas

As a follow up to the 2015 Oral Rabies Vaccination Program, this protocol has been developed to help agencies respond to calls about potentially rabid wildlife, and to facilitate the testing of animals suspected of having rabies. Species of most concern in terrestrial rabies transmission are foxes, coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, skunks, and feral or free ranging dogs and cats. An animal is considered suspect if it is a member of a species of concern and seems ill, or is acting in a manner that is out of character for the species, e.g. fox moving through town in broad daylight.

- If a suspect animal is found in the target area (refer to a listing of counties on page three or the map on page four) please contact appropriate personnel in those areas (Animal Control, Sheriff’s Dept., Texas Parks and Wildlife-Game Warden) to have the animal humanely destroyed. Refer to page two for pick up and testing.
- If a private citizen in any of these counties is witness to a suspect animal and cannot contact appropriate personnel it is asked that the animal be humanely destroyed and held until appropriate personnel can be contacted. This recommendation pertains to citizens living outside of the city limits.
- We ask that all safety and care be practiced when attempting to obtain suspect animals. Remember: always wear latex, rubber or leather gloves when handling dead animals.

We are trying to acquire as many specimens as possible to better serve the citizens of the Trans Pecos, West Central and South Texas in future rabies prevention activities.

Thank you for your cooperation in this Multi-agency project …

The most important question to ask…
Has there been Human/Pet Exposure?

**Human/Domestic Animal Exposure:**

If a human or domestic animal has been bitten, scratched, or otherwise potentially exposed to rabies by a wild or domestic mammal, or if there is any question about what constitutes exposure, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services

- Trans Pecos/West Central Texas
  - Dr. Ken Waldrup at (915) 834-7782/ (915) 238-6216, or
  - Kathy Parker at (432) 571-4118
- South Texas
  - Dr. Edward J. Wozniak at (830) 591-4382/ (210) 863-5713
  - Dr. Ron Tyler at (956) 444-3222/ (956) 367-4964
- For after-hours emergencies (512) 776-7111
Sick or Strange-Acting Animals, or Animals Found Dead:

If personnel are available, the following agencies will provide assistance or advice on how to deal with a sick-acting raccoon, bobcat, fox, coyote, feral dog or cat:

- Contact Health Region offices of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) during normal business hours [M-F 8-5]
  - Trans Pecos/West Central Texas
    - Dr. Ken Waldrup at (915) 834-7782/ (915) 238-6216 or Kathy Parker at (432) 571-4118
  - South Texas
    - Dr. Edward J. Wozniak at (830) 591-4382/ (210) 863-5713
    - Dr. Ron Tyler at (956) 444-3222/ (956) 367-4964
- Additional Contacts include the Texas Wildlife Services Program (TWSP)
  - San Angelo at (325) 655-6101
  - Fort Stockton at (432) 336-3303
  - Uvalde at (830) 278-4464
  - Corpus Christi at (361) 299-1176 or your local TWSP technician.
- If no response, contact the central office of Texas Department of State Health Services Zoonosis Control at (512) 776-7255 or the TWSP State Office at (210) 472-5451.
- If no other options are available, keep pets and children indoors and leave the animal alone.

Note: We are actively trying to test suspicious foxes, coyotes, bobcats, and raccoons for rabies. Freezers are located at several Texas Wildlife Services offices. Freshly killed or dead animals should be kept cooled or frozen for testing. Contact one of the above telephone numbers for handling procedures.

Remember … contact the Health Department at (915) 834-7782 or (432) 571-4118 (Trans Pecos/West Central Texas) or (830) 591-4382 or (956) 444-3222 (South Texas) if there is a question of exposure.

Nuisance & Injured Wildlife/General Wildlife Information:

- For information on Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) baiting and Enhanced Rabies Surveillance (testing), contact.
  - Texas Department of State Health Services
    - Dr. Laura Robinson at (512) 776-3306 or
  - Texas Wildlife Services Program (TWSP)
    - Bruce Leland at (210) 472-5451
- TWSP can also provide advice on preventing and resolving nuisance wildlife problems.
**Enhanced Rabies Surveillance Counties**

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<th>Trans Pecos</th>
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**Things you can do to protect yourself, your family and your pets from rabies...**

- Do not feed, touch, or adopt wild animals, and be cautious of stray dogs and cats. Rabid animals do not always appear ill or vicious.
- Teach children to leave wildlife alone. Be sure your children know to tell you if an animal bites or scratches them.
- Call your doctor and your local health department for advice if an animal bites or scratches you. Thoroughly wash the wound with soap and water and report the incident immediately!
- Have your veterinarian vaccinate your dogs, cats, or ferrets against rabies. Keep pet vaccinations up-to-date.
- Tightly close garbage cans. Open trash attracts wild or stray animals to your home or yard.
- Feed your pets indoors; never leave pet food outside as this attracts wildlife.

**Don’t relocate wild mammals – this can cause rabies to spread quickly to new areas.** Importation of rabies-vector wildlife into Texas from other states or other counties would be disastrous. Homeowners should not transport and release animals.
Resources for rabies information:
Texas Department of State Health Services:  www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis
Centers for Disease Control (CDC):  www.cdc.gov/rabies
USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services:  www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/