



Oakland County Health Division confirms rabies in skunk

Oakland County, Michigan sent this bulletin at 10/17/2019 02:57 PM EDT

For Immediate Release



NEWS RELEASE
OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE DAVID COULTER
Leigh-Anne Stafford, Health Officer

Oakland County Health Division confirms rabies in skunk

Pontiac, Mich., Oct. 17, 2019 – Oakland County Health Division reports a confirmed animal rabies case in a dead skunk removed from West Bloomfield north of West 14 Mile Road, south of West Maple Road between Drake and Farmington Roads. Residents are urged to stay away from wild animals such as skunks, bats, raccoons, foxes, and stray cats and dogs. In 2019, rabies has been verified in four bats and eleven skunks in Oakland County. For up-to-date information and a map of confirmed animal rabies cases in Oakland County, visit www.oakgov.com/health.

"Rabies is a fatal disease and there is no known cure. The best protection is to avoid contact with stray, wild, and dead animals," said Leigh-Anne Stafford, health officer for Oakland County. "Help keep pets protected by getting them vaccinated and avoiding encounters with unfamiliar animals."

If you or your household pet are exposed to any wild animal or an animal unknown to you, wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water. Then seek medical or veterinary attention immediately, even if your animal was previously vaccinated. The rabies virus is found in the saliva of infected animals and is spread through bites or scratches. Rabies is not spread through a skunk's spray. To report potential rabies exposure, call the Health Division at 248-858-1286.

Rabies is present in our community. Keep away from unfamiliar animals, especially if they are acting strangely such as having problems swallowing, exhibiting lots of drool or saliva, appearing tamer than you would expect, biting at everything, and/or having trouble moving or are paralyzed.

Follow these simple steps to protect yourself from rabies:

- Have pets vaccinated regularly. This will protect them if exposed to animals with the disease and prevent them from becoming ill and infecting humans.
- Do not handle stray, wild, or dead animals.
- Keep pets indoors, supervise when outside, and always use a leash when walking to limit their exposure to wild animals that may be rabid.
- Do not leave food or water outside for pets when unattended.
- Keep garbage securely covered, as these items may attract wild or stray animals.

More information about rabies can be found on the Health Division's website at www.oakgov.com/health or by contacting Nurse on Call at 800-848-5533 or noc@oakgov.com. Nurse on Call is available 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. For up-to-date public health information, follow @publichealthOC on Facebook and Twitter.

For media inquiries only please contact Bill Mullan, Oakland County media and communications officer, at 248-858-1048.



NURSE ON CALL PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION HOTLINE
800.848.5533 NOC@OAKGOV.COM
OAKGOV.COM/HEALTH

@PUBLICHEALTHOC

Have you recently visited or received a service from us? We want to hear from you!
[Click here to complete a Customer Service Satisfaction Survey.](#)