



# Rabies Alert

## Stay Safe



Multiple rabies-positive animals have been found in Santa Cruz County. Rabies is a deadly virus that spreads through bites or saliva from infected animals. Protect yourself, your family, and your pets!

### Common Carriers of Rabies



- Skunks
- Foxes
- Bats
- Raccoons
- Coyotes

Cats, dogs, horses, livestock, and deer can carry rabies if infected.

### Signs of Rabies in Wildlife



- Aggressive behavior or unprovoked attacks
- Drooling, foaming at the mouth, difficulty swallowing
- Staggering, confusion, or paralysis
- No fear of humans or unusual activity during the day (nocturnal animals)

### How to Protect Against Rabies



- Avoid contact with wild, stray, or sick animals.
- Keep pets & livestock vaccinated – talk to your vet about rabies boosters.
- Do not leave pet or any food outside that could attract wildlife.
- Supervise pets outdoors and keep them on a leash.
- Secure garbage bins to prevent wild animals from foraging.
- Teach children never to approach unfamiliar animals.

### Reporting/Guidance



- REPORT SIGHTINGS OF SICK OR STRANGE-ACTING WILDLIFE to your local Animal Control.
- IF A HUMAN IS BITTEN OR EXPOSED, contact your Local Health Department immediately.
- For pet exposure or vaccine updates, contact your veterinarian.

Visit the CDC and AZDHS website for further info

**DO NOT APPROACH OR ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE A SUSPICIOUS ANIMAL!**

If an animal must be put down in self-defense, try to **avoid head trauma** so the brain remains intact for rabies testing.

**Rabies is 100% preventable—stay alert and take action!**

Santa Cruz County Animal Control  
Santa Cruz County Health Services

(520) 761-7860  
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