

RABIES TIPS

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Epi-Hotline 1-877-427-7317

2017

Information for Animal Control, Animal Shelters, and Law Enforcement

Protocol

- Review your protocol for animal bite reporting, confinement of animals for observation, and quarantine.
- Remember to work with the local health department.
- Animal control officers, veterinarians, and others who are frequently exposed to animals that might have rabies should receive rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis.
- All suspected, and confirmed, rabid animals must be reported to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment at 1-877-427-7317.

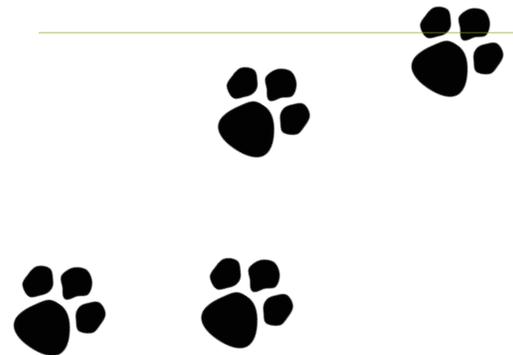
Training

- It is important to educate all officers and staff on animal behavior that may encounter suspect domesticated and wild animals.
- Dog body language training is beneficial to understanding normal and atypical behavior. Hands on training with an expert in dog training or behavior is ideal.

Resources

- A free video series is available from the National Canine Research Council, Safe Humane Chicago, and the United States Department of Justice called *Police and Dog Encounters; Tactical Strategies and Effective Tools to Keep Our Communities Safe and Humane*.
- An hour long presentation titled, *Rabies: What Animal Shelters Need to Know*, is a free webinar that covers basic information about rabies, transmission, animal bite response, investigation procedures by local health departments and current rabies control guidelines for Kansas. Available through KS-TRAIN course #1067321.

“Rapid and accurate laboratory diagnosis of rabies in humans and other animals is essential for timely administration of post-exposure prophylaxis...”



Transmission

The most common mode of rabies virus transmission is through the bite and virus containing saliva of an infected host animal.