

RABIES TIPS

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

2017

Information for Wildlife Professionals

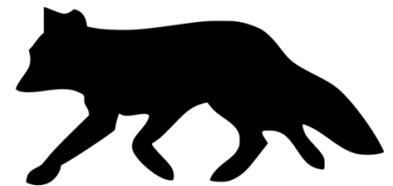
Wildlife Exposure

- Wildlife professionals include biologists, rescue organizations, pest control, trappers, hunters, and any other professions that come into contact with wildlife.
- Wildlife professionals with frequent contact with animals that might have rabies, including but not limited to, are bats, skunks, raccoons, foxes and coyotes should receive rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis.
- Wildlife are the most commonly diagnosed rabid animals in the United States. All bites by raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes must be considered a possible exposure to the rabies virus.
- If someone contacts you about a bat in their dwelling, contact the local health department. They can help you determine if there was potential exposure to the bat and coordinate testing of the bat for rabies.

What to Watch For

- Signs and symptoms of rabies in wild animals varies due to species, progression of disease, and differences between individual animals.
- Some of the signs to watch for are aggression, agitation, staggering, seizures, sensitivity to light, fearfulness or lack of fear, excessive drooling, difficulty swallowing, partial paralysis, or simply unusual behavior.

“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.