

Safety for April

Spring has arrived and Summer is approaching. **Please get your animals vaccinated for Rabies.**

Per Tonya Finch, Texas Department of Health and Human Services Zoonosis, 21 cases of Rabies have been confirmed in the Texas Panhandle. Last year only 16 cases at this time were confirmed. Skunks are the main animal transmitting the disease at this time, but having said that, dogs and cats can interact with skunks and Rabies can be transmitted.



Transmission of Rabies usually begins when the animal's infected saliva is passed to an uninfected animal through bites. If a dog, cat, or other animal bite a person, a vaccinated animal must be quarantined for 45 days and if the animal has been exposed, it must be quarantined for 90 days and receive three Rabies vaccinations at this time.

Signs and symptoms of Rabies in animals include:

- extreme tiredness
- fever
- vomiting
- not eating

Within days the animal's nerves are affected, which results in:

- difficulty breathing and swallowing
- paralysis
- loss of coordination
- aggression
- self-mutilation.

If you see an animal with these symptoms, please notify Animal Control immediately and do not approach the animal. By getting your animals vaccinated, you will keep yourself and your family safe from Rabies.

There is no cure for Rabies!!