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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS  
COMMUNICATIONS

# NEWS

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Rabies Found in Skunk in Rural Sedgwick County**

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – On December 19, the Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD), Sedgwick County Code Enforcement, Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE), and Kansas State University Veterinary Hospital (KSU), confirmed a diagnosis of rabies in a skunk that was killed by a dog in northwest rural Sedgwick County. The skunk was tested for rabies by the KSU Veterinary Hospital Lab, and the dog is being watched in quarantine. There is no evidence of human exposure.

Pet owners are reminded to make sure that their animals are up-to-date with all vaccinations. Unvaccinated pets or those overdue for vaccination that come in contact with a rabid animal, or that bite a human, must either be quarantined for six months or be euthanized. Animals with up-to-date vaccines can be given booster vaccinations, but these shots must be given within five days of exposure. Speak to your veterinarian regarding the appropriate vaccination schedule for your pet.

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Rabies is a viral infection that is nearly always fatal. Humans may be exposed to rabies primarily through the bite of a rabid animal or when the virus is introduced from the saliva of a rabid animal to fresh open cuts in the skin or mucous membranes such as the eyes, mouth or nose. Carriers of the disease include several wild animals common in Kansas, such as skunks and bats.

If you suspect an animal is rabid, by its unusual behavior, immediately call Animal Services at 268-8378 (within Wichita city limits). For other areas within Sedgwick County, call Animal Control of Sedgwick County at 660-7070.

For more information, refer to the rabies fact sheet attached or visit [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org).

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