



Health Alert Network

Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

Phone 303/220-9200 • Fax 303/741-4173 • www.tchd.org

Follow us on Twitter @TCHDHealth and @TCHDEmergency

John M. Douglas, Jr., M.D. Executive Director

The pages that follow contain information critical to protecting the health of your patients and the citizens of Colorado.

HAN ADVISORY

Number of pages including cover: 3

Subject: **Advisory - Message to Animal Control regarding recent cases of Rabies**

Message ID: 5/13/2016 12:00:00 PM

Recipients: HAN Community Members.

From: TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas County, Colorado

Recipient Instructions: **For your information. No response required.**

You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, or if you have additional questions, call 720-200-1477.

Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service/Public Health Brief: Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>



Public Health Notification of Animal Bite Reports

May 2016

Notify Tri-County Health Department within 24 hours of all HIGH RISK RABIES EXPOSURES

- Bites by rabies reservoir species (skunk, bat, fox or raccoon)
- Biting animal is acting sick, abnormal or has symptoms suggestive of rabies
- Biting animal dies in quarantine
- Bites by wild carnivores (bobcat, coyote, mountain lion, bear)

Please contact Tri-County Health Department prior to recommending euthanasia or a strict quarantine.

Notify Tri-County Health Department within 72 hours if BITING DOMESTIC ANIMAL IS NOT LOCATED

- Biting animal cannot be located, including when the biting animal escapes during quarantine

Please note Tri-County Health Department no longer requests notification for biting animals that are located and complete the 10-day quarantine.

Contact Tri-County Health Department with any questions or to consult on potential rabies exposures.

NOTIFY TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BY PHONE OR FAX:

Phone: Normal business hours: 303-220-9200
After hour's pager: 303-890-0230

Fax: 303-846-6295

Contact Jennifer Chase, Disease Intervention Program Manager at 720-200-1541 or jchase@tchd.org with any additional questions or concerns.



Please share the following message with your staff:

Over the last two months, Tri-County Health Department and animal control partners have responded to four incidents involving skunks with confirmed or highly suspected rabies infection in urban areas of the city of Aurora. Three of the four incidents resulted in skunks potentially exposing both humans and pets to rabies. All people and pets have received appropriate follow up and treatment. Thus far in 2016, rabid skunks have been identified in urban areas of Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties. The geographic spread of skunk rabies westward through the Denver Metropolitan Area is unprecedented.

Public Health anticipates more incidents of contact between humans or domestic animals and rabid skunks in both rural and urban settings. Attached are instructions on when to contact Tri-County Health Department regarding high risk animal bites.

Notify Tri-County Health Department at 303-220-9200 within 24 hours of all high risk rabies exposures:

- Bites by rabies reservoir species (skunk, bat, fox or raccoon)
- Biting animal is acting sick, abnormal or has symptoms suggestive of rabies
- Biting animal dies in quarantine
- Bites by wild carnivores (bobcat, coyote, mountain lion, bear)

Please contact Tri-County Health Department prior to recommending euthanasia or strict quarantine. Notify within 72 hours if biting domestic animal is not located or escapes during quarantine. Please note Tri-County Health Department no longer requests notification for biting animals that are located and complete the 10-day quarantine.

If you have questions about rabies, please call Tri-County Health Department at 303-220-9200.