

Sally Ellertson
Public Information Officer
141 West Renfro
Burleson, Texas 76028-4261
817-426-9622
F: 817-426-9390
sellertson@burlesontx.com
www.burlesontx.com

September 29, 2015

Are your pet's rabies vaccinations up to date? If you answered no, your pets could be at risk.

As of Sept. 28, there have been 23 confirmed rabid skunks in 2015 in Johnson County. Rabies is enzootic - a disease that is constantly present in an animal - in skunks in Texas. The numbers, and percentages, of skunks that test positive for rabies varies. High risk animals for rabies in Texas include skunks, bats, raccoons, foxes and coyotes.

Your best prevention is to make sure your pets are vaccinated against rabies and to keep those vaccinations up to date. Most veterinarians are now giving 3-year rabies vaccinations. Be sure to keep a copy of your rabies vaccination certificate as proof that your pet has been vaccinated.

The Burleson Animal Shelter urges everyone to stay away from wild animals, and never keep a wild animal as a pet.

- Teach children not to play with any animal they do not know, even if the animal appears friendly.
- Avoid animals, both domestic and wild, that appear disoriented, fearless or aggressive. Some nocturnal animals – animals that are active during the night and sleep during the day – may be out in the daytime hours if the skies are overcast. They may be confused, but not rabid, but err on the side of caution.
- Do not touch any wild animal that appears to be ill or dead. If you live inside the city limits of Burleson, call Burleson Animal Services at 817-426-9283.
- Do not attract wild animals to your yard. Avoid leaving pet food containers outdoors and keep your garbage in a tightly sealed and closed container.

For more information go to the Rabies page under Animal Services on the City of Burleson website, www.burlesontx.com/rabies.