



**HEALTH UPDATE**  
**Please distribute to all providers in this office**

**For Veterinarians in El Paso County:  
 Contacting the Health Department and managing rabies related inquiries**

Name of Agency	Contact Numbers		Issues Appropriate for this Agency
	Business Hours	After-Hours	
<b>EPCDHE</b> El Paso County Department of Health & Environment - Communicable Disease Program	Mon-Thurs, 7am to 6pm: <b>719-578-3220</b>	After hours pager: <b>719-385-9622</b> (providers and agencies only, not for the general public)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Possible human exposure to a skunk, wild carnivore, or other potentially rabid animal.</li> <li>- Possible contact of livestock with a confirmed or highly suspect rabid animal, <u>OR</u> livestock animal exhibiting signs or symptoms of rabies (will be forwarded to Colo. Dept of Agriculture).</li> </ul>
<b>HSPPR</b> Humane Society of the Pikes Peak Region	<b>719-473-1741, ext. 152</b>	<b>719-473-1741, ext. 112</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All pet or wild animal bites or attacks to humans.</li> <li>- Pet or wild animal bites or attacks to other pets.</li> <li>- Dead skunk with strong possibility of contact with a pet.</li> <li>- Other general animal-related exposures.</li> </ul>
<b>DOW</b> Colorado Division of Wildlife	non-urgent calls: <b>719-227-5200</b>	Sick/injured animal, or after hours <b>719-544-2424</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reports of sick or injured wild mammals.</li> </ul>
<b>CDPHE</b> Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment Disease Control	Mon-Fri, 8am to 5pm: <b>303-692-2700</b>	<b>303-692-2700</b> Ask to speak with person on-call	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consultation on diagnostic and treatment issues related to veterinary infectious disease (other calls on rabies issues will be redirected to EPCDHE)</li> </ul>

1. For reports of **pet animal bites or attacks to humans, wild mammal bites, or other general animal-related exposures**, contact HSPPR. HSPPR has protocols for when animal issues need to be referred to EPCDHE or CDPHE for additional evaluation. Pet-to-pet animal bites are not a public health priority unless rabies is highly suspected.
2. If there is **possible human exposure** to a skunk, wild carnivore, or other potentially rabid animal then contact EPCDHE Communicable Disease Program and HSPPR. Public health will assure that DOW is notified immediately.
3. For reports of a **sick or injured wild mammal**, contact DOW through Colorado State Patrol Dispatch to reach an on-call officer 24hr/7 days per week.
4. For a **dead skunk where there is a strong possibility of contact with an owned dog or cat**:
  - a. Call HSPPR. Depending on the geographic area of the county, HSPPR will make arrangements for either picking up the animal or having the animal safely brought to their facility if possible.
  - b. Call EPCDHE Communicable Disease Program to notify. EPCDHE will review the referral and make a final determination on rabies testing (in consultation with CDPHE if necessary).

For a **dead skunk found dead where contact with humans and pets has been ruled out after preliminary investigation** (e.g., asking whether pets were unattended around skunk), the property owner should be instructed on how to properly double bag and dispose of in trash or preferably at local landfill to be buried at designated area for animal carcasses. Property owner should be instructed to not leave out or throw onto other property to avoid the spread of rabies through scavenging by other mammals.