



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
Surgeon General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Rabid Fox Found in Gonzalez

Residents in Contact with Fox Should Contact Escambia County Health Department

PENSACOLA, FL -- The Escambia County Health Department was notified of one rabid fox in the Gonzalez area of Escambia County, Florida. Individuals or their pets who have been bitten or scratched by a wild animal should contact the Escambia County Health Department at 595-6700. Important information about rabies and wild animals is at www.EscambiaHealth.com

Rabies is fatal to humans and pets. It can be transmitted to humans through a wild animal's saliva from a bite or a minor scratch. Residents are reminded not to interact with wild animals.

To Avoid Rabies from Wild Animals

- The best way to avoid exposure to rabies is to avoid contact with wild animals. Do not keep wild animals as pets.
- Keep wild animals such as foxes and raccoons out of the house and yard – do not place feeders in the yard.
- Protect pets by vaccinating them for rabies and keep their shots up-to-date.
- Unsupervised outdoor pets are at risk for exposure to rabies through contact with wild animals.

To Keep Wild Animals Off Your Property

- Eliminate artificial feeding sources - bring in pet food at night, secure trash cans with fasteners or enclose them in lockable bins.
- Make sure bird feeders are not accessible to wild animals; most squirrel-proof coverings also deter wild animals.

About Rabies

Rabies is a disease that affects the central nervous system. The rabies virus is carried in the saliva of infected animals and is usually transmitted to people and other animals when they are bitten or scratched by the rabid animal. Rabies is fatal to humans and animals.

Report all Animal Bites

Immediately seek medical attention and report the bite to the Escambia County Health Department at 850-595-6700 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CDT) Monday through Friday or 850-418-5566 after hours and on weekends. Wild animals may have rabies and can carry rabies without showing any signs of the disease.

If You See a Suspicious Wild Animal

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Escambia County Health Department

1295 W. Fairfield Drive • Pensacola, Florida 32501-1107
John J. Lanza, MD, PhD, MPH, FAAP, CHD Director-Health
www.escambiahealth.com
(850) 595-6500



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If you see a suspicious wild animal in your yard or neighborhood, contact a private pest control service. County Animal Control no longer responds to wild animal calls.

If a Dead Wild Animal is on Your Property

To dispose of a small dead animal, residents should:

- Cover their hands with thick gloves or use a shovel to lift the animal – do not touch the animal with your bare hands.
- Double-bag the dead animal before putting it into the curbside trash can.
- If you used a shovel or tool, clean the tool with the following bleach solution so that animal's saliva, which may carry rabies, is not left on the tool. The bleach solution should be 1 part bleach to 9 parts water -- a gallon of this solution would be approximately 1 ½ cups of bleach per gallon of water.

For instructions on how to bury a wild animal that may have been rabid, contact the Health Department at 595-6700.

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