

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RABIES VIRUS NOW CONFIRMED IN CAMPBELL COUNTY

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Gillette, WY - Veterinarians at the Animal Medical Center in Gillette Wyoming received laboratory confirmation that two skunks in southern Campbell County have tested positive for rabies. The skunks were part of routine trapping done by the Campbell County Predator Board.

According to Dr. Darren Lynde "there was no known human exposure, but it reminds us all that rabies is around and should be taken serious." Any warm blooded animal can contract rabies but in Campbell County skunks, raccoons, foxes and bats represent most of the cases. "Our horses, dogs and cats are certainly at risk." Lynde continues that "rabies in our county seems to cycle from year to year. This is an early spring warning that we are due for significantly more cases this summer." Lynde points out that there are some steps that should be taken to minimize exposure to rabies:

- * Vaccinate dogs, cats, ferrets, horses and other selected livestock for rabies and keep vaccinations current.
- * Keep your distance from wild life and stray animals
- * Even if they appear friendly, it is best to not approach unfamiliar dogs and cats
- * If bitten by any animal clean the bites with soap and water and then immediately contact medical professionals

Rabies is a fatal disease but can be prevented through routine vaccinations. Lynde added that "Right now we are all hearing a lot about washing our hands, but for the rabies virus we are fortunate that prevention is as simple as vaccinate, vaccinate, vaccinate."

For more information contact your veterinarian or see <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>

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Dr. Darren Lynde is a Senior Partner and has been a Veterinarian at the Animal Medical Center in Gillette Wyoming for 30 years. Animal Medical Center has been serving the animals and the people who own them in Campbell County and surrounding areas for 30 years.

