



**Jefferson County  
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**

Public Health Facility, 531 Meade Street, Watertown, New York 13601

---

**PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

Faith Lustik, Health Planner  
(315) 786-3723

**Second Skunk Tests Positive for Rabies in City of Watertown**

**Watertown, NY December 10, 2015~** The New York State Health Department laboratory has reported to the Jefferson County Public Health Service that another skunk, found in the City of Watertown on the eastern side, has tested positive for rabies. It was found in the vicinity of the first skunk that was discovered to have rabies last week. There was no human or pet exposure in this case.

Rabies is a fatal disease that attacks the brain and spinal cord. It can take several weeks to several months for rabies symptoms to appear. Early treatment after an exposure can prevent rabies.

Any mammal can get rabies, but it is most often seen in bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes. Below are some steps to help prevent rabies:

1. Teach children to stay away from unfamiliar animals, either wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly.
2. Do not leave pet food outside as it attracts wildlife to your home.
3. Wash any wound from an animal thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately.
4. Be a responsible pet owner by keeping your pet's vaccinations current. Getting your pet vaccinated by your vet or at a clinic can help stop the spread of rabies from wild animals to humans.
5. If your pet is involved in an altercation with a wild animal, do not get in between them. Do not touch your pet without gloves as rabies is spread through saliva. Cover your pet with a towel and contact your vet as your pet may need a booster shot.

For further information about rabies, please go to [www.jcphs.org](http://www.jcphs.org) and click on [Rabies Control](#).

~END~