



Jefferson County PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

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

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Two Skunks Reported to Have Rabies

Watertown, NY August 9, 2016~ The New York State Department of Health laboratory has reported to the Jefferson County Public Health Service that 2 skunks have tested positive for rabies. Both were obtained by the United States Department of Agriculture, were acting aggressively, and each exposed a dog to the virus. One skunk was located between Adams and Adams Center off Route 11. The second skunk was located in the City of Watertown off Exchange Street. Both dogs have an up to date rabies vaccination so only required booster shots.

Twenty animals have tested positive for rabies so far in 2016. 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 in humans and in pets who are up to date on vaccination. Any mammal can get rabies, but it is most often seen in bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes. Animals with rabies may be aggressive, sick or unusually friendly. Please take these steps to help prevent the spread of rabies:

- Teach children to stay away from unfamiliar animals, either wild or domestic, even if they appear friendly. Remind them to tell you if they have any unusual contact with an animal.
- 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. **Rabies vaccination clinics are being held this week at the Adams Village Barn tonight, August 9thth, 6-8pm and at the Clayton Town Barn on Thursday, August 11th, 6-8pm. Go to jcphs.org for the complete schedule.**
- Do not leave pet food outside as it attracts wildlife to your home.
- Wash any wound from an animal encounter thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately.
- Monitor your pet when they are outside. 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.

To find additional information, follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/jcphs) or go to www.jcphs.org



**2016 – JEFFERSON COUNTY
SUMMER RABIES VACCINATION CLINICS**
For Dogs, Cats, Ferrets over 3 months of age
It's New York State Law!

State Health Law says that if an unvaccinated animal bites, the owner MUST pay for confinement in an approved kennel for 10 days. Protect your family and pets by coming to any clinic listed below.

Even if your pet is strictly an INDOOR pet, it MUST BE VACCINATED against rabies!

All clinics run from 6-8PM and are donation based

