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Rabies Alerts: Skunk Tested Positive

The Charles County Department of Health is alerting all citizens and visitors to a rabies case identified in Hughesville, MD. One skunk tested **POSITIVE** for rabies on November 18, 2026, in the vicinity of Homeland Dr. If you or your pet recently had contact with a skunk from this location, please call the Charles County Department at 301-609-6768.

We urge everyone to avoid contact with unknown animals and wildlife. Rabies is a disease of animals and people, spread through the saliva of a rabid animal. Usually, this occurs when a rabid animal bites or scratches a person or animal. Secondary exposure can occur from saliva on the coat or fur of an animal that was exposed to a rabid animal. The virus can enter the body through open cuts or wounds, or through the eyes, nose, or mouth.

Domesticated animals like dogs, cats, and ferrets can contract rabies from wild animals such as raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats. Vaccinating your pets against rabies will prevent them from contracting the disease. Livestock may also be infected with rabies. You should contact your veterinarian for information on rabies and livestock vaccination. It is important to teach your children to stay away from wild and unknown animals.

A current rabies vaccination for your pet is vital. Please get in touch with your local veterinarian for an updated vaccine for your pets. Rabies vaccines are available through your veterinarian, as well as at local businesses including Petco, Banfield, and Tractor Supply. Please contact 301-609-3425 or 301-609-6751 for questions.