



# Health Alert Network

## Tri-County Health Department

Serving Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties

Phone 303/220-9200 • Fax 303/741-4173 • [www.tchd.org](http://www.tchd.org)

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John M. Douglas, Jr., M.D. Executive Director

The pages that follow contain information critical to protecting the health of your patients and the citizens of Colorado.

## HAN ADVISORY

Number of pages including cover: 2

Subject: **Advisory - Message to Law Enforcement regarding recent cases of Rabies**

Message ID: 5/13/2016 12:00:00 PM

Recipients: HAN Community Members.

From: TRI-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas County, Colorado

Recipient Instructions: **For your information. No response required.**

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You have received this message based upon the information contained within our Health Alert Network Notification System. If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would like us to use, or if you have additional questions, call 720-200-1477.

### Categories of Health Alert Network Messages:

**Health Alert:** Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

**Info Service/Public Health Brief:** Provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

You may download a copy of this HAN from the TCHD website at  
<http://www.tchd.org/259/Health-Alert-Network>



Please share the following message with your staff:

Over the last two months, Tri-County Health Department has responded to four incidents involving skunks with confirmed or highly suspected rabies infection in urban areas of the city of Aurora. Three of the four incidents resulted in skunks potentially exposing both humans and pets to rabies. All people and pets have received appropriate follow up and treatment. Thus far in 2016, rabid skunks have been identified in urban areas of Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas and Jefferson counties. The geographic spread of skunk rabies westward through the Denver Metropolitan Area is unprecedented.

- **Rabies is a fatal disease. If a person or domestic animal is bitten or scratched by a rabid animal, have that person contact their health care provider right away and also report the incident to Tri-County Health Department at 303-220-9200.**
- **Notify your local Animal Control Agency if a member of the public reports an encounter with a skunk during the day as this is abnormal skunk behavior.**
- **Notify Colorado Parks and Wildlife at 303-291-7227 if a member of the public reports an encounter with a sick wild animal.**

If you have questions about rabies, please call Tri-County Health Department at 303-220-9200.