

# Rabies in Elbert County ..... Many Lessons Learned!



# “Got a skunk? Ok, I’ll be right over!”

## Things to take with you on a “Rabies Mission”...



1. Cheap Leather gloves, box of latex gloves.
2. Febreze.
3. Safety glasses.
4. Heavy duty garbage bags.
5. Old vaccine or disposable styro cooler.
6. Tyvek suit or “expendible” shirt, jacket.
7. Cardboard box.
8. Road Map and GPS.
9. Phone.....preferably charged up.
10. Proper forms.
11. Janelle’s Phone #.
12. Dr. Hlavacek’s Phone #.
13. State Lab’s Phone #.
14. Tylenol – Extra strength.
15. Patience.
16. Negotiation skills.
17. **Sense of Humor.**

# Surge of Rabies 2009 - 2010

2009 – Late Summer, Fall  
= 5 skunks

2010 = 20 skunks  
1 mule deer  
3 fox

2011 = 1 skunk  
1 bat

# Contributing Factors:

High Precipitation – 2008,2009  
Burst in wildlife populations.

Many stream drainages.

Small acreages- easy food sources  
good cover.

## Challenges and Obstacles:

1. Low vaccination rates.
2. One animal control employee.
3. Health Dept. staff layoffs.
4. 1800 square miles of territory.
5. No local radio or television for Public Service Announcements.
6. Only weekly newspapers.

# Successes.....

APHIS trapper assists with control of rabid skunk population in Agate, Colorado.

Rabies Seminar in Elizabeth, Colorado.

Rabies information direct mail campaign.

Occasional assistance from CDOW.

Offered rabies titers to vets, techs, animal handlers.



# Vaccination Challenges

Shots? We're just plain ol' farm dawgs....we don't need no silly shots!

UHH....I had a shot last year, or was that 5 years ago?



I got my shot from the feed store. I think the vaccine got hot on the dash of the pickup!

# Partnerships

Dr. Clint Kinsell, Dr. Woody Smith of Comanche Vet Clinic

Dr. Leon Anderson, Elizabeth Animal Hospital



# Support from CDPHE

*Oh, no! It's Elbert County again! What will they come up with next??*



# Top Ten “Wild & Weird” Rabies Experiences & Reflections.....

10. Rabid Skunks WILL crawl over kennel walls and into horse stalls to attack dogs!
9. Before purchasing “Have A Heart” traps, please ponder what you will do with the lucky skunk inside?!?

# Top Ten “Wild & Weird” Rabies Experiences & Reflections.....

8. Ticked off CATS get away from experienced animal shelter operators.
7. Ticked off CATS get away from animal control officers.



# Top Ten “Wild & Weird” Rabies Experiences & Reflections.....

6. There are veterinarians out there that will help you exhume a llama and decap it for you!
5. For some people in this world, it is a hard decision to put the health of children and family ahead of the pet collection.

# Top Ten “Wild & Weird” Rabies Experiences & Reflections.....

4. A Wacky Skunk really can disrupt a whole football scrimmage!



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3. Discovered that rabid skunks really can terrorize an entire town! (Agate)

# Top Ten “Wild & Weird” Rabies Experiences

2. Little old person, out for a walk with cane, has wacky skunk come after them.....



# Top “Wild & Weird” Rabies Experience.....



1. Rabid mule deer chases car 8 blocks.....



# Looking forward to 2012!



# A big THANK YOU to.....

Dr. Elisabeth Lawacek, Janelle Kenfield, and the entire CDPHE Zoonosis crew,

Dr. Hugh McGuire and LARS Virology gang,

Anita Watkins and TCHD epidemiology staff,

Gary Hartzell, Elbert County Environmental Health Specialist.



Paddle faster, we have to make Jeffco before Jim Dale retires!





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