

**Mission:**

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

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April 17, 2024

## DOH SUWANNEE ISSUE RABIES ALERT

**Contact:**

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386-362-2708

**Live Oak, Fla.** – The Florida Department of Health in Suwannee County is monitoring rabies among wild animals in the area. This is in response to a confirmed case of rabies in a fox that was killed in the west central area of County Road 136W in Suwannee County on April 14, 2024. All residents and visitors should be aware that rabies may be currently present in the wild animal population.

People and domestic animals should always avoid physical contact with wild animals (e.g., raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, otters, bobcats, coyotes), which carry a higher risk of human exposure and a need for rabies post-exposure treatment. If you are exposed to rabies, receiving appropriate treatment after exposure will protect you from the risk of rabies.

This rabies alert is for 60 days and includes the following boundaries in Suwannee County:

- **Northern boundary: 76<sup>th</sup> Street**
- **Eastern boundary: 161<sup>st</sup> Road**
- **Southern boundary: 104<sup>th</sup> Street**
- **Western boundary: 193<sup>rd</sup> Road**

**Take the following precautions to prevent rabies exposure:**

- Keep pets under direct supervision and on a leash, and keep livestock secured on your property. If an animal bites your pet or livestock, seek veterinary assistance for the animal immediately and contact the Suwannee County Sheriff Department Animal Control.
- Avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Do not handle, feed or unintentionally attract them with outdoor pet food, open garbage cans, or other sources of food. If you have been bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, seek medical attention, and report the injury to DOH Suwannee by calling 386-362-2708.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home; instead contact a [licensed wildlife rehabilitator](#).

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**Florida Department of Health****Suwannee County**

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[suwannee.floridahealth.gov](http://suwannee.floridahealth.gov)



**Accredited Health Department**  
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- Call your local animal control agency to remove any stray animals from your neighborhood. Contact City of Live Oak or Suwannee County Animal Control.
- Immunize your pets and livestock based on your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- Prevent wildlife, including bats, from entering living quarters or occupied spaces in homes, churches, schools, and other similar areas, where they might come in contact with people and pets.

For more information on rabies, visit [FloridaHealth.gov/Rabies](http://FloridaHealth.gov/Rabies) contact the Florida Department of Health in Suwannee County at 386-362-2708.

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

The Department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov).