



Town of Little Elm
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Little Elm resident bitten by skunk found to be rabid

LITTLE ELM (March 31, 2015) On March 30, a Little Elm resident was bitten by an undomesticated skunk, suffering a broken-skin wound, says Assistant Chief of Police Rodney Harrison. The resident's identity is being withheld by request.

"The animal was humanely euthanized and sent to the Texas Department of State Health Services in Austin for testing," he said. "We have received the results, and the laboratory has confirmed that the animal was indeed rabid."

The affected resident may or may not develop the disease, depending on a variety of factors.

The bite is a stark reminder to residents, especially those with small children, those caring for elderly family members and those who own small pets, that the rabies virus is present in the wild and can be transmitted by coming in contact with an infected animal.

Skunks, raccoons, coyotes, and other small mammals are common carriers of diphtheria and rabies, and extreme caution should be taken whenever these are encountered.

"Parents should teach their children to be cautious around any wild animal," said the Chief. "Many times, the kiddies may watch cartoons which feature cuddly versions of these animals and the kids may not think twice about approaching them. That can spell danger in more ways than one."

Should residents see an undomesticated animals on their property or near a location with children, they should contact Animal Control at (972) 377-1898 during normal business hours. After hours or on holidays, the Denton County Dispatch Office may be called at (940) 349-1600.

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ABOUT LITTLE ELM – Little Elm is one of the state's fastest growing communities. Nestled on the shores of Lake Lewisville, the Town was incorporated in 1966, adopting the Council/Manager form of government. The population increased dramatically over the last several years, growing from under 4,000 in 2000 to over 30,000 today. Little Elm's population exceeds the state average in education and income, and is increasingly trending younger and technologically proficient. The Town's footprint is just over 14 square miles and boasts some 66 linear miles of shoreline within its boundaries.