



RABIES WARNING

A bobcat tested positive for rabies on April 18, 2018, in Whiteriver, Arizona. **If you or a pet might have come in contact with this animal please call 928-338-3652 and speak with a staff member from the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering at the Whiteriver Indian Hospital. If you see suspicious wildlife, report it to the White Mountain Apache Tribe's Game and Fish Department at 928-338-4385.**

In order to protect you and your family, please take the following precautions:

1. Stay away from wild or unfamiliar animals! Rabies is common in the state of Arizona. Enjoy observing wildlife from a distance. Do not attempt to feed, approach, or touch wild animals (alive or dead). Teach this important message to your children, and keep a close eye on your kids at all times. If you see an animal such as a fox, bat, skunk, coyote, or javelina acting unusual, immediately report it to WMAT Game and Fish at 928-338-4385. If an animal was acting unusual and died please report this immediately. Examples of unusual behavior to report include: showing no fear of humans and pets, instability, disorientation, normally aggressive animals seem friendly, friendly animals become aggressive, or nocturnal animals active in daylight.
2. If you are bitten by an animal that could be rabid, or come into contact with an animal's saliva, wash the exposed site immediately with soap and water and seek medical attention. Teach children to always tell an adult if they are bitten by an animal. Rabies is a highly infectious disease and is almost always fatal to humans, if not treated right away. Be sure to report the bite to the Whiteriver Indian Hospital Emergency Department and the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering as soon as possible.
3. Vaccinate pets! Ensure all pets have an up-to-date rabies vaccination and have a current license tag on their collar. It is extremely important to vaccinate all dogs, cats, horses, and livestock for rabies. Contact a local veterinarian for a rabies vaccination. Any animal without a rabies vaccination leaves the family at risk. Protect your-self, family and neighbors by assuring your animal vaccinations current.
4. Keep pets restrained at all times! Pets should be tied up, on a leash, or in a fenced yard. Do not allow them to wander or roam free.

For more information, call the Office of Environmental Health & Engineering at 928-338-3652.