GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
District 2 Public Health

Franklin County Environmental Health

Zachary Taylor, M.D., M.S., District Health Director
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Banks, Dawson, Forsyth, **Franklin,** Habersham, Hall, Hart, Lumpkin, Rabun, Stephens, Towns, Union and White Counties

September 28, 2026

Recently, a skunk in the area of Stone Bridge and Hwy 145 tested positive for rabies. The rabies virus does exist in Franklin County wildlife and can be transmitted to domestic animals and humans. Rabies in humans is essentially 100% fatal if not treated within a certain time prior to the onset of symptoms. If you know of any person or domestic animal that had any contact with this skunk or had the potential to contact it, please call the Franklin County Environmental Health Office immediately at (706)-384-5575 Ext. 4.

The following are symptoms of rabies that you should watch for in any domestic animal:

- Animal stops eating or drinking
- Animal becomes unusually vicious towards owners or others
- Animal walks with a sluggish gait or even sideways
- Animal constantly slobbers from the mouth
- Animal displays strange or unexplainable behavior

If you suspect that YOU or YOUR ANIMAL(S) have been in contact with this or any rabid animal, or you notice your pet or domestic animal displaying any symptom of rabies, avoid contact with the animal and confine it, then call the Franklin County Environmental Health Office at (706)-384-5575 Ext. 4.. If you have had contact with any rabid or suspected rabid animal, please contact your physician immediately to discuss whether treatment is necessary.

Sincerely,

Allison Nelson
Environmental Health Manager
Franklin County