

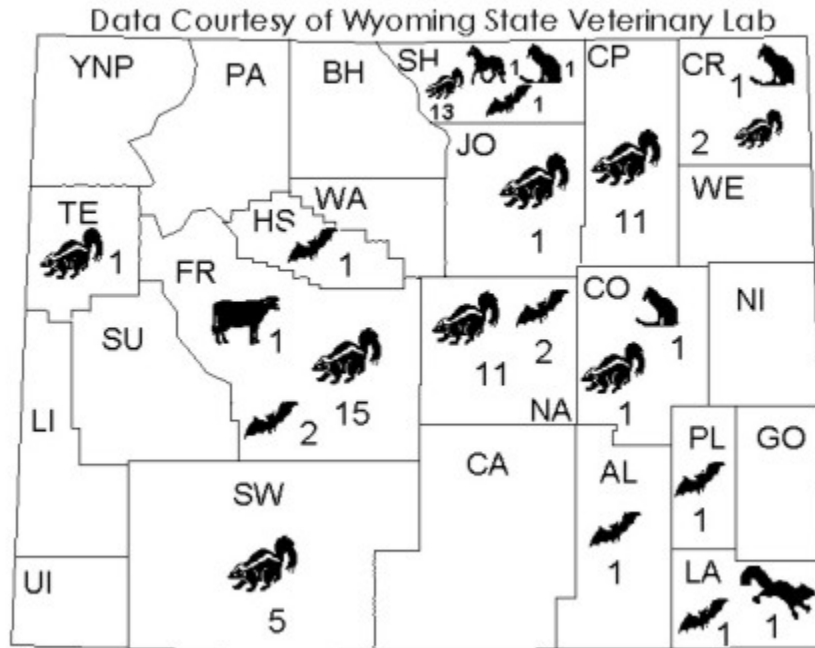
Rabies Alert

We have had rabies positive skunks from Sweetwater (3) and Niobrara (1) counties recently. These are areas that have not had skunk rabies in a long time or ever. Sweetwater county cases have been in the Farson area on the Sandy drainage. Keep in mind that skunks very seldom get over 1 mile from water so they are concentrated along rivers, creeks or irrigation canals. It is possible that the virus will continue to cycle in the skunks and spread down to and through the Green River drainage thereby increasing the potential exposure of humans and animals.

Niobrara county had the first case of rabies in a skunk for many years. Our records indicate a positive bat in 1992 and a positive coyote prior to that. The rabies virus that cycles in bats is not the same as the skunk virus and even though infectious for mammals it does not establish itself in a continuing cycle.

With this spread people should be reminded to maintain vaccinations and not assume that rabies does not exist in their area. The way to stop human exposures is to maintain vaccinations on domestic animals.

Rabies Positives 1/1/00 - 1/22/01
 61 Pos Skunks, 9 Pos Bat, 3 Pos Feline, 1 Pos Equine, 1 Pos Bovine, 1 Pos Squirrel
 816 Total Exams



For more information contact Dr. Ken Mills or Amy Boerger-Fields at 742-6638