

## Enhanced Rabies Surveillance Testing for Select Areas of the Trans-Pecos, West Central, and South Texas

In response to a rabies outbreak in New Mexico and in support of ongoing rabies surveillance efforts along the Texas/Mexico border, this protocol has been developed to help agencies respond to calls about potentially rabid wildlife and to facilitate the testing of animals suspected of having rabies. Species of most concern in terrestrial rabies transmission are foxes, coyotes, bobcats, raccoons, and feral or free-ranging dogs and cats. An animal is considered suspect if it is a member of a species of concern and seems ill or is acting in a manner that is out of character for the species, e.g. fox moving through town in broad daylight.

- If a suspect animal is found in the target area (refer to a listing of counties on page 3 or the map on page 4) please contact appropriate personnel in those areas (Animal Control, Sheriff's Dept., Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Warden) to have the animal humanely destroyed. Refer to page 2 for pick up and testing.
- If a private citizen in any of these counties suspects an animal is rabid and cannot contact appropriate personnel, please humanely destroy and hold the animal until appropriate personnel can be contacted. This recommendation pertains to citizens living outside of the city limits.
- We ask that all safety and care be practiced when attempting to obtain suspect animals. Remember: always wear latex, rubber or leather gloves when handling dead animals.

We are trying to acquire as many specimens as possible to better serve the citizens of the Trans-Pecos, West Central, and South Texas in future rabies prevention activities.

Thank you for your cooperation in this multi-agency project!

### The most important question to ask...has there been human or pet exposure?

#### **Human/Domestic Animal Exposure:**

If a human or domestic animal has been bitten, scratched, or otherwise potentially exposed to rabies by a wild or domestic mammal, or if there is any question about what constitutes exposure, contact your Local Rabies Control Authority or:

#### **Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Zoonosis Control Program**

- **Trans-Pecos/West Central Texas:**
  - DSHS Public Health Region (PHR)-9/10 Zoonosis Control program: (915) 834-7780; [r9-10.zoo@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:r9-10.zoo@dshs.texas.gov)
- **South Texas:**
  - DSHS PHR-11 Zoonosis Control program: (956) 444-3212; [hsr11.zoo@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:hsr11.zoo@dshs.texas.gov)

**YES:**

**Possible Exposure**

**No  
Exposure**

### **Sick or Strange-Acting Animals or Animals Found Dead:**

For assistance or advice on how to deal with a sick-acting raccoon, bobcat, fox, coyote, feral dog or cat, contact:

#### **DSHS Zoonosis Control Program**

- **Trans Pecos/West Central Texas:**
  - DSHS PHR-9/10 Zoonosis Control program: (915) 834-7780; [r9-10.zoo@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:r9-10.zoo@dshs.texas.gov)
- **South Texas:**
  - DSHS PHR-9/10 Zoonosis Control program: (915) 834-7780; [r9-10.zoo@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:r9-10.zoo@dshs.texas.gov)

#### **Texas Wildlife Services Program (TWSP)**

- San Angelo: (325) 655-6101
- Fort Stockton: (432) 336-3303
- Uvalde: (830) 278-4464
- Corpus Christi: (361) 299-1176, or
- Your [local TWSP technician](#).

If no response, contact the DSHS Zoonosis Control Program Central Office at (512) 458-7111 or the TWSP State Office at (210) 472-5451.

- **If no other options are available, keep pets and children indoors and leave the animal alone.**

Note: We are actively trying to test suspicious foxes, coyotes, bobcats, and raccoons for rabies. Freezers are located at several Texas Wildlife Services offices. Freshly killed or dead animals should be kept cooled or frozen for testing. Contact one of the telephone numbers above for handling procedures.

**Remember ... contact the Department of State Health Services at (915) 834-7780 (Trans-Pecos/West Central Texas) or (956) 444-3212 (South Texas) if there is a question about exposure.**

**No  
Exposure**

### **Nuisance & Injured Wildlife/General Wildlife Information:**

For information on Oral Rabies Vaccine (ORV) baiting and Enhanced Rabies Surveillance and testing, contact:

- **DSHS Zoonosis Control Program Central Office**
  - Kathy Parker (512) 705-2947
- **TWSP**
  - Bruce Leland or Cory Wilson (210) 472-5451
  - TWSP can also provide advice on preventing and resolving nuisance wildlife problems.

## **Enhanced Rabies Surveillance Counties**

### **Trans-Pecos**

Brewster  
Culberson  
El Paso  
Hudspeth  
Jeff Davis  
Pecos  
Presidio  
Reeves  
Terrell

### **West Central Texas**

Andrews  
Crockett  
Ector  
Edwards  
Gaines  
Kinney  
Loving  
Uvalde  
Val Verde  
Ward  
Winkler

### **South Texas**

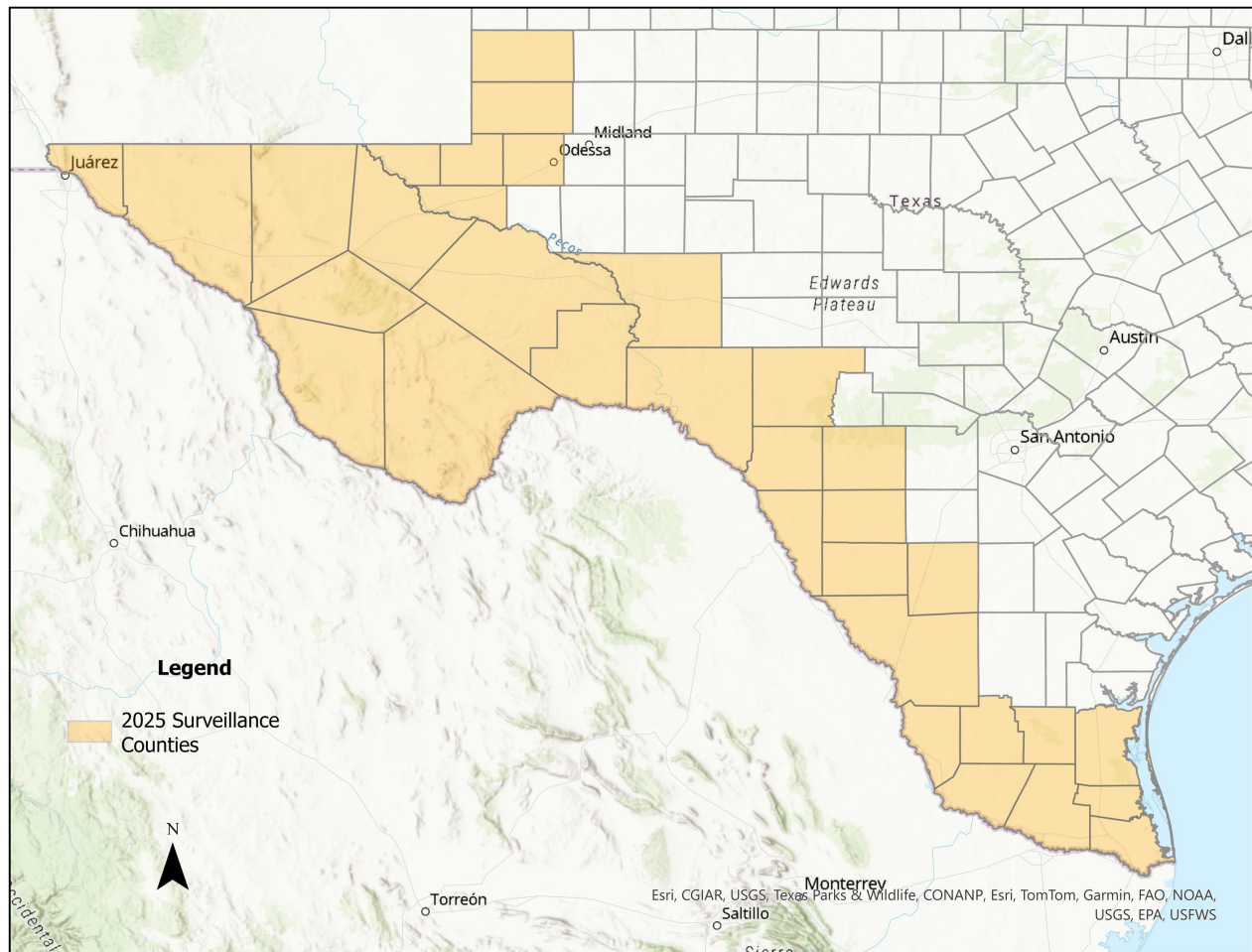
Cameron  
Brooks  
Dimmit  
Hildago  
Jim Hogg  
Kenedy  
La Salle  
Maverick  
Starr  
Webb  
Willacy  
Zapata  
Zavala

## **Things you can do to protect yourself, your family, and your pets from rabies:**

- Do not feed, touch, or adopt wild animals and be cautious of stray dogs and cats. Rabid animals do not always appear ill or vicious.
- Teach children to leave wildlife alone. Be sure your children know to tell you if an animal bites or scratches them.
- Call your doctor and your local health department for advice if an animal bites or scratches you. Thoroughly wash the wound with soap and water and report the incident immediately!
- Have your veterinarian vaccinate your dogs, cats, or ferrets against rabies. Keep pet vaccinations up to date.
- Tightly close garbage cans. Open trash attracts wild or stray animals to your home or yard.
- Feed your pets indoors; never leave pet food outside as this attracts wildlife.

**Don't relocate wild mammals – this can cause rabies to spread quickly to new areas.** Importation of rabies-vector wildlife species into Texas from other states or other counties would be disastrous. Homeowners should not transport and release animals.

## 2025 Enhanced Rabies Surveillance Area



### **Resources for rabies information:**

Texas Department of State Health Services: [www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis)

Centers for Disease Control (CDC): [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies)

USDA/APHIS/Wildlife Services: [www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/rabies/index.html](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/rabies/index.html)