

**Lincoln County Government**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lincoln County Second Positive Rabies Case

(Lincolnton) Lincoln County Animal Services has confirmed the county's second rabies case of 2024. On Monday, September 9, a skunk was observed to have potential signs of neurological issues prior to being killed by a dog in the area of Country Club Road. The skunk was submitted to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health for rabies testing on September 10. On Thursday, September 12, Lincoln County Animal Services received confirmation of a positive rabies test for the skunk. We recommend all pet owners ensure their indoor and outdoor animals are kept current on their rabies vaccine and take advantage of vaccination opportunities through Lincoln County Animal Services and low-cost clinics sponsored by Helping Animals to Survive (HATS). Lincoln County residents may schedule an appointment with Lincoln County Animal Services to receive a 1-year rabies vaccination for \$7 per pet. To keep yourself safe, don't approach or handle wildlife. Signs of rabies in wild animals can include abnormal amounts of aggression or friendliness, disorientation, wobbliness, circling, and excessive salivation. If you see or encounter a wild animal that may be sick, or is exhibiting signs of abnormal behavior, call Animal Services at (704) 736-4125 to report it.

Resources for rabies vaccination:

Lincoln County Animal Services: <https://www.lincolncountync.gov/702/Animal-Services>

Helping Animals To Survive (HATS): <https://www.hatsalive.org/calendar-2/>