

**Lincoln County Government**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****July 14th, 2025****Lincoln County Sixth Positive Rabies Case of 2025**

(Lincolnton) Lincoln County Animal Services has confirmed the county's sixth rabies case of 2025. On Tuesday, July 8th, a skunk sprayed a group of family dogs and subsequently entered a residence through a doggy door off Royal Oaks Drive, Lincolnton. While convivence is certainly provided for a pet owner by using doggy doors, be aware that it can also be a risk factor for the entrance of wildlife into the home. There were no human exposures, and the skunk was retrieved by Lincoln County Animal Services and submitted to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health for rabies testing.

On Friday, July 11th, Lincoln County Animal Services received confirmation of a positive rabies test for the skunk. We recommend all pet owners to 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 \$10 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/>