

For Immediate Release

Date: June 24, 2026

Rabies Quarantine Area Implemented after Rabies-Positive Fox Confirmed in Atascosa County

ATASCOSA, Texas – The Atascosa County Animal Control Department, in coordination with the Texas Department of State Health Services, confirmed yesterday, June 23, that a wild fox tested positive for rabies in Atascosa County. Two individuals sustained bites from the wild fox and they are currently undergoing post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) treatment as a precautionary measure.

The incident occurred during the night on Friday, June 19, 2026, in the 6300 Block of State Hwy 97 in the Pleasanton area of Atascosa County. Both individuals sought medical attention following the exposure and began the rabies treatment protocol.

Atascosa County Animal Control Department serves as the designated Local Rabies Control Authority. The Animal Control Department is actively monitoring this situation and working the quarantine area to ensure the safety of our community. The individuals exposed are receiving appropriate medical care, and we urge residents to remain vigilant about wildlife contact.

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system of mammals and is nearly always fatal once symptoms appear. The virus is transmitted through the saliva of infected animals, typically through bites or scratches. Wild animals such as foxes, bats, raccoons, skunks, and coyotes are the primary carriers of rabies in Texas.

Public Safety Recommendations

The Atascosa County Animal Control Department urges all residents to take the following precautions:

Avoid Contact with Wildlife:

- Do not approach, feed, or handle wild animals, even if they appear friendly or sick
- **WARNING SIGNS:** Wild animals acting unusually—appearing tame, disoriented, aggressive, or active during daytime hours—may be rabid
- Do not attempt to capture or care for sick or injured wildlife; contact animal control authorities
- Keep pets indoors or supervised when outside
- Ensure all dogs, cats, and ferrets are vaccinated against rabies as required by Texas law

Report Animal Bites Immediately:

- Texas law mandates reporting of potential rabies exposures. [Tex. Health & Safety Code § 826.041](#). Individuals who know of an animal bite or suspect an animal may be rabid must report the incident to the local rabies control authority. Failure to report constitutes a Class B misdemeanor under Texas law. [Tex. Health & Safety Code § 81.049](#).
- Any person who has been bitten or knows of an animal bite or scratch capable of transmitting rabies must report the incident to the local rabies control authority-Atascosa Animal Control Department.
- Seek medical attention immediately if bitten or scratched by any animal
- Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and contact your healthcare provider or visit an emergency room.

Animal Quarantine, Testing, Treatment

The fox involved in this incident has been tested and confirmed positive for rabies. Any animal that bites a person must be quarantined for observation or tested according to Texas Department of State Health Services rules. Dogs, cats, and ferrets that bite humans are typically quarantined for a 10-day observation period regardless of vaccination status.

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is a series of vaccinations administered after potential rabies exposure. When given promptly and properly, PEP is highly effective at preventing rabies infection. The two individuals exposed in this incident began treatment immediately and are being closely monitored by healthcare providers.

For more information about rabies prevention and control, contact the Atascosa County Animal Control Department at 830-769-2342 or visit <https://co.atascosa.tx.us/animal-control/>. To report animal bites or suspected rabid animals, if an emergency or after hours contact 911 – Atascosa County Sheriff's Office; for non-emergency contact Atascosa County Animal Control.

[The Texas Department of State Health Services provides additional resources at https://www.dshs.texas.gov/](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/) or by calling 512-776-7111.