PRESS RELEASE

Herkimer County Public Health received word on Wednesday December 2nd, 2020, from Wadsworth Labs that a skunk that was sent in to be tested for rabies on Tuesday December 1st, 2020 from the Town of Columbia has tested positive for rabies.

The skunk was found outside the residence exhibiting symptoms of rabies; and sent to Wadsworth lab for testing.

The public can protect themselves or their family pets from rabies by practicing the following:

1. Vaccinate your pets against rabies
2. Spay or neuter all animals to reduce the number of strays.
3. Do not feed strays or handle unknown animals, wild or domestic.

Remind children and adults not to play with unknown animals (wild or domestic). If a bat is found in a house, and there is a possibility it had contact with a person or an animal in the house, call Public Health and we will make arrangements to have the bat tested, if necessary.

Herkimer County Public Health would like to remind the public to please check your pet’s rabies vaccination records to make sure that they are up to date. If they are not up to date, make an appointment with their vet as soon as possible to have them vaccinated against rabies.

Please call Public Health at 315-867-1176, if you have any questions, or concerns. Please visit our web site www.herkimercounty.org.