

The province of Saskatchewan's rabies surveillance program needs your assistance.

The province has operated a Provincial Rabies Response Program since April 1, 2014, when the Canadian Food Inspection Agency withdrew from federal programming for this disease. Under the response program animals that are suspected of having rabies AND have come into contact with either domestic animals or humans are tested, and follow-up actions are taken when there is a positive test result.

It is important to monitor changes in prevalence and distribution of rabies in wildlife in order to better manage risk to domestic animals and humans. Under the rabies surveillance program, specific species of wild animals may be tested even if rabies is not suspected and without a history of contact with domestic animals and humans. The surveillance program is targeting the following:

- a. **Foxes** in the northern regions of Saskatchewan, specifically the regions north of La Ronge;
- b. **Skunks** at or beyond the leading edges of known enzootic regions that are showing signs consistent with rabies (see attached map; skunk surveillance in known “hot zones” will NOT be done); **NOTE: as of 2016 testing of skunks between Saskatoon and Lloydminster is of particular interest**
- c. **Bats** from any region of the province; and
- d. Animals of any species (other than skunks) from any region of the province that are showing signs consistent with rabies.

Because trappers and hunters are come in contact with wildlife, we are asking for your help with rabies surveillance. Your assistance and cooperation is respectfully requested.

Specifically, we are asking for the following:

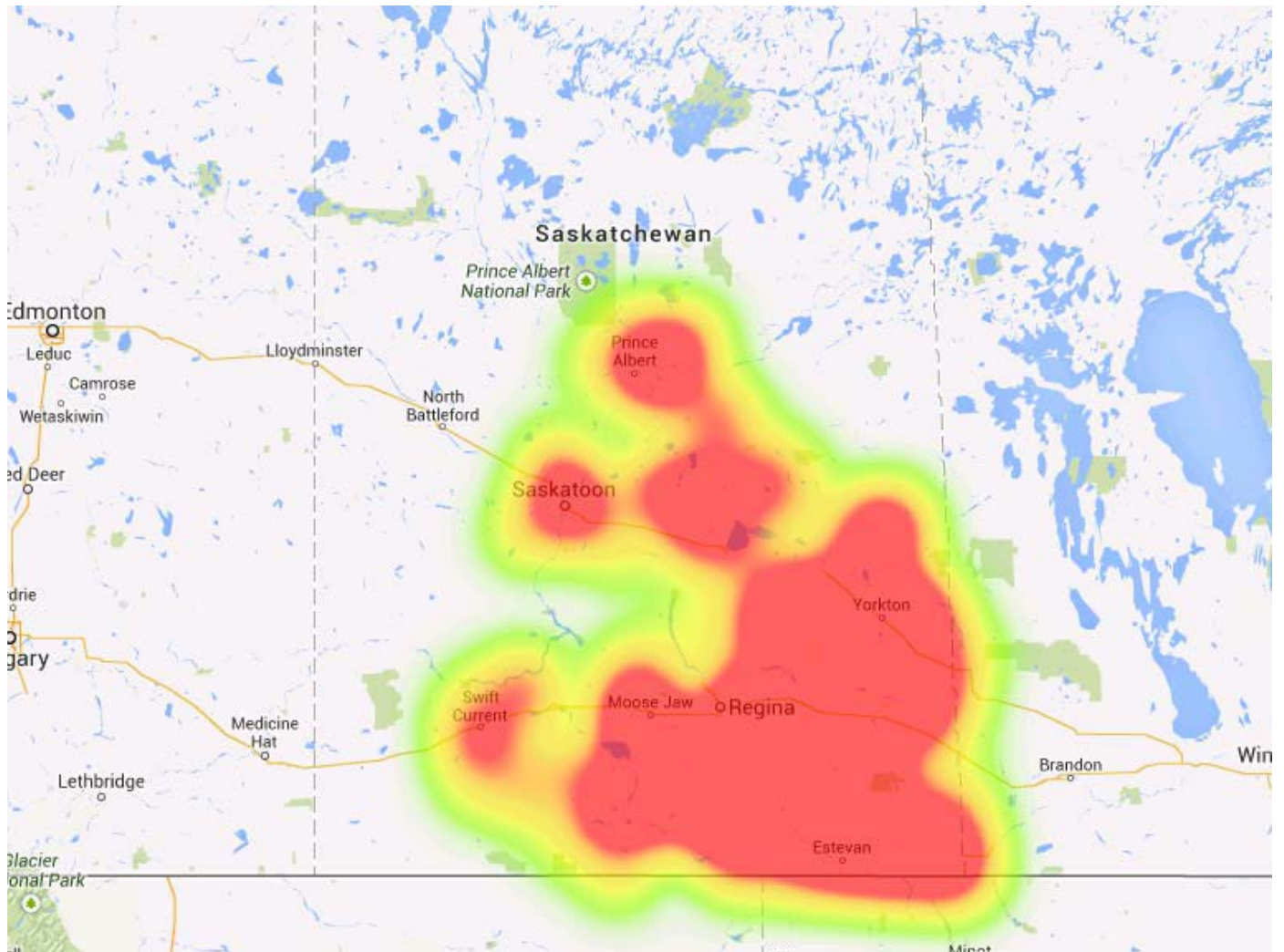
1. Discuss rabies surveillance with your local Conservation Officer and other hunters/trappers in your area;
2. Identify animals for testing under the surveillance program, following the criteria above;
3. Take animals to your local Conservation Officer who will submit them for rabies testing; the Officer will collect the following information from you:
 - Submitter name and contact information (positive tests will require follow-up with submitter);
 - Location animal was found and date it was found/harvested;
 - Other information about the animal such as how it died, condition, behavior, etc.

For smaller animals, the whole carcass may be submitted. For larger animals, head only is preferred. Skinned carcasses or skinned heads may be submitted, as long as the brain is intact. **HOWEVER** – if rabies is suspected, **DO NOT** skin or remove the head as this increases your risk to exposure to the virus.

REMEMBER: Animals may be stored (frozen) for several weeks before being tested for rabies. If an animal is showing signs consistent with rabies AND it has been in contact with a person, please contact your local public health office and the Provincial Rabies Response Program (1-844-7-RABIES) to ensure proper follow-up is done immediately.

Rabies surveillance and testing is being coordinated by the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative (CWHC) Western and Northern Region, Saskatoon. You may submit animals for rabies testing directly to CWHC but *please call first before doing so*. For more information or questions regarding the rabies surveillance program, please contact Dr. Wendy Wilkins, Animal Health Unit, Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture at 306-798-0253 or wendy.wilkins@gov.sk.ca

Map of skunk rabies in Saskatchewan, 2000 – 2014





Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre
 c/o Veterinary Pathology
 Western College of Veterinary Medicine
 52 Campus Drive
 University of Saskatchewan
 Saskatoon, SK S7N 5B4
 (306) 966-5815

Necropsy #: _____

W#: _____

(Lab Use Only—Do Not Write in this Section)

SPECIMEN SUBMISSION FORM

(Please use back of sheet if necessary)

(Please use a separate form for each species submitted)

Date Submitted: _____

Specimen ID (if Any): _____

Submitters Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____

Fax #: _____

Finder's name and address (if different from above):

Telephone #: _____

Fax #: _____

Species: _____

Submitted: _____

Date Specimens(') found or reported: _____

Location where specimens(') found (important—be specific): _____

Latitude: _____ **Longitude:** _____ or **UTM Coordinates:** _____

Specimen: _____ **Age:** _____ **Sex:** _____ **Circle one:** 1) Whole Carcass 2) Portion(s)

Total # **dead** (by species): _____ # **sick** (by species): _____ # **healthy** (by species): _____

Please Check (x) one of the following:

Found Dead: ____ **Found Alive & Died:** ____ **Euthanized/killed:** ____ (Killed **how?** _____)

Shot/Trapped: ____ **Angled/Netted:** ____ Was animal treated for disease? ____ **Treatment?** _____

Date of Death: _____ **How were samples stored?** (cool, frozen, in formalin, fresh, etc.) _____

Suspected disease or reason for submission: _____

Estimate of when death/die-off first occurred: _____

Additional Observations:

Clinical Signs (unusual behavior and physical appearance): _____

Description of area where carcasses found (land use, habitat types, agricultural practices, spraying, etc.): _____

Climatic Factors (storms, precipitation, temperature changes, etc.): _____
