Animal Control and Wildlife

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Animal Control Officer II
Our Mission

- VCAS provides contract services to the residents of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley, Ventura, and all unincorporated areas of Ventura County. VCAS is dedicated to improving the lives of the animals in their care, and to safeguard the community through rabies suppression and the sheltering of stray animals.
Our Services and Wildlife

• VCAS does **not** pick up, catch, or trap and relocate wildlife

• Exception: sick, injured, or posing a public safety risk.

• The biggest threat besides bodily harm to your family or pets, is **rabies**!
Rabies

- Rabies is a severe viral disease of the central nervous system.
- In the United States, rabies is chiefly a disease of wild mammals, but it can occasionally affect humans.
- Animals with rabies shed the virus in their saliva.
- Spread through intimate contact via bite or mucous membrane (eyes, nose, mouth)
- Once symptoms are present, there is no cure!

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Rabies.aspx
Rabies Suppression

- Rabies can be prevented by avoiding contact with unfamiliar animals.
- Do not allow pets to have contact with wild or unfamiliar animals.
- Keep them confined on your property or under control when off your property.
- See your veterinarian regularly to ensure that your pets remain in good health and are up-to-date on their rabies vaccination.
- All dogs in California are required to be vaccinated against rabies.

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Rabies.aspx
Your Pet vs Wildlife

What is intimate contact?

• Intimate contact means the possibility of exposure to the saliva, mucous membrane, blood or body of any suspected rabid animal.

What constitutes intimate contact and what needs to happen?

• **Bats in your home** - any dog or cat that is in an enclosed space with a bat shall be placed under quarantine.

• Bats and skunks are **always** to be considered a suspected rabid animal unless, and until, laboratory examination proves otherwise. All other species may be suspected dependent upon circumstances surrounding contact.

• **Skunk spray** - If your pet is only sprayed by a skunk and no direct contact made, then no quarantine is necessary. If your pet smells **strongly** of skunk and there isn’t an **eyewitness** to the spraying, meaning there is no one to confirm that intimate contact did not take place, your pet **should** be quarantined.

Ref: CCR 2060 Page 151
Why is this important?

In the United States 60 to 70 dogs and more than 250 cats are reported rabid each year. Nearly all these animals were unvaccinated and acquired rabies from wildlife (such as bats, raccoons, and skunks).

In the County of Ventura:
- 2018: 11 bats
- 2019: 9 bats
- 2020: 1 bat
- 2021: 3 bats
- 2022: 1 bat

Ventura County is rich with majestic wildlife. We are the guests and must learn to live with them. Here are a few things you can do to deter wildlife from coming near your property:

- NEVER feed or leave food for wild animals. As harmless as this may seem, it encourages predators to move increasingly closer.
- LIMIT ATTRACTANTS. Ensure food, water, trash and fallen fruit are removed from the property.
- PETS should be moved indoors especially during dawn and dusk when predators are most active.
- TRASH should be kept in tightly sealed containers.

For more information: https://www.vcas.us/wildlife/