



202 N. 7th Street
Norfolk, NE 68701
P402-844-2145 F402-844-2134
www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/police

Michael Bauer
Captain

mbauer@ci.norfolk.ne.us

NEWS RELEASE

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Recently, Norfolk Police received information that there has been a confirmed case of rabies in a feral cat that was found in southeast Norfolk. The Police Division offers the following guidelines for reducing the risk of rabies exposure:

- Verify that your dogs and cats are current on their rabies vaccinations.
- Leave stray dogs and cats alone.
- Do not feed stray dogs and cats.
- Report stray or ill animals to your local animal control. In Norfolk, the Police Division is the local animal control authority.
- Avoid, and report, animals displaying unnatural behavior.
- Symptoms of rabies may include loss of appetite, signs of apprehension or nervousness, and irritability. The animal may aggressively use its teeth and claws with the slightest provocation or they may experience paralysis of the throat and jaw muscles, often with excess salivation and inability to swallow.
- Educate your children about interacting with stray animals.

While rabies is a serious condition, an infected animal can only transmit the virus after onset of clinical signs of rabies. If you or your pet is bitten or scratched by a stray animal, seek medical advice from your doctor or veterinarian and report it to your local animal control.

Service-Honor-Commitment