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**(Neb.) - Skunk shot in western Nebraska had rabies**

By: John Thayer Posted at: 02/10/2012 12:15 AM

SCOTTSLBUFF, Neb. (AP) - Authorities say a skunk shot and killed this week near Lake Minatare in western Nebraska has tested positive for rabies.

Scotts Bluff County Health Director Bill Wineman confirmed news of the rabid skunk to Scottsbluff radio station KNEB-AM on Wednesday. Wineman says family members in the northeast end of the county shot and collected the skunk because it was behaving erratically.

Wineman says the incident is a reminder to residents to stay away from wild animals and to make sure all pets are vaccinated against the disease.

There were about three dozen confirmed cases of rabies in Nebraska in 2011.

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