

# DEPARTMENT OF POLICE CITY OF GONZALES

**GAYLE D. AUTRY**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

716 SAINT PAUL STREET – P.O. BOX 547  
GONZALES, TEXAS 78629

Phone: (830) 672-8686  
Fax: (830) 672-9081



March 12, 2026

Dear Community,

Animal Control was dispatched to the 300 Blk of Janke, on March 9, 2026, around 4:00 pm regarding a dead bat on the callers back porch. The bat appeared to have been killed by the caller's outdoor cat. The dead bat was sent to the Texas Department of State Health Services for rabies testing as a precaution. Animal Control was contacted by Dr. Keiffer, Zoonosis Control Veterinarian with Texas Department of State Health Services on March 12, 2026; Dr. Keiffer advised that the bat did test positive for Rabies. Currently, the owner of the cat is working with Animal Control and DSHS and following rabies exposure protocol. If you believe you or your pet encountered sick wildlife, please call Animal Control Officer Cunningham at **(830)672-8686**.

What is rabies? Rabies is a fatal viral zoonosis and serious public health problem. Rabies is a virus disease of the central nervous system. It can be transmitted by the bite of a rabid animal, or through the saliva of a rabid animal being introduced into a fresh scratch or similar skin break, and rarely by other routes. Saliva in contact with unbroken skin - or even on a scratch wound over 24 hours old, one where a scab has formed-usually will not require anti-rabies treatment. You should consult with your doctor if you believe you have come in contact the animal that could be rabid. All mammals are believed to be susceptible to the disease. High risk animals are coyotes, bats, foxes, racoons and skunks.

According to Texas Health and Safety Code Chapter 826, pet owners must have their dogs and cats vaccinated against rabies by the time they are four months old. Vaccinations must be administered at regular intervals as prescribed by a licensed veterinarian. If you are a pet owner and you are found not to have a current rabies vaccination on your pets, it is a Class C Misdemeanor, which carries a fine of up to \$500.

## **Signs of rabies include:**

- Animals that have a change in behavior
- Wild animals which seem to be friendly or tame
- Wild animals – coyotes, foxes, bats, skunks, and raccoons – which you do not usually see in the daytime.
- Animals that have a hard time walking, eating, or drinking
- Excitement or meanness in animals
- Animals that bite or scratch an old wound until they bleed.

**Melissa Cunningham, 151**

Animal Control Officer---Local Rabies Control Authority

City of Gonzales Police Department