



PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION ANNOUNCEMENT

Suggested Media

Instructions:

Please run at your discretion.

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*As per the MCK
Communications Protocol,
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Relations / Communications
Unit*

Distempered skunks in New Development area

For immediate release

(Kahnawake – 6 Kenténha/October 2025) The Public Safety Division's Animal Control Services would like to advise residents of the New Development and Clay Valley areas to remain vigilant following a recent increase in skunks exhibiting signs of distemper.

Distemper is a highly contagious viral disease that poses a serious threat to wildlife, particularly skunks, raccoons, and foxes. Caused by a paramyxovirus, canine distemper is most prevalent during the spring and fall seasons, with juvenile animals being especially vulnerable. Symptoms of distemper in skunks typically appear within 10 to 14 days of infection and may include:

- Discharge from the eyes and nose
- Respiratory issues such as coughing and pneumonia
- Neurological symptoms including disorientation, wandering during daylight hours, and seizure-like behavior
- Gastrointestinal problems such as vomiting and loss of appetite

The virus spreads through direct contact with infected animals or via airborne particles from respiratory secretions. It can also be transmitted through contaminated surfaces and materials. Infected skunks may shed the virus for up to two weeks, posing a risk to other wildlife and domestic pets.

Animal Control Services assures the community that all wildlife showing signs of illness will be captured and sent to be tested for distemper. Residents are reminded to ensure their pets are up to date on vaccinations to help prevent the spread of the disease.

For more information, please contact Animal Control Services at 450-632-0635, ext. 53527.