



Public Safety Announcement

The Elizabeth Police Department has witnessed an increase in suspected canine distemper cases in our community. Last week, two raccoons were seen displaying signs and symptoms of distemper. Canine distemper is highly contagious and can be transmitted between wild and domestic animals, but fortunately cannot infect humans. We anticipate more cases will be seen in our community based on recent trends. Below are the signs and symptoms of distemper. If you have further concerns or questions about the risk to your dog(s) please contact your veterinarian. If you have not had your dog vaccinated, please do so to help protect them, and stop the spread of the disease.

Symptoms to look for:

- Discharge from the eyes and nose.
- Walking as though they are on hot stones and/ or falling over or circling.
- Appears to be blind, and hungry but won't eat (please don't feed them!).
- Unkempt fur.
- Seizures and foaming at the mouth.
- Disoriented, lethargic, and overall loss of aggression.
- May approach people or curl up to sleep in an open area.

<https://cpw.state.co.us/Documents/Wildlife-Health/Distemper.pdf>

<https://www.avma.org/resources-tools/pet-owners/petcare/canine-distemper>

If you see a wild animal displaying signs and symptoms of distemper, please contact the Town of Elizabeth Police Department at 303-646-4664.