



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

POSSESSION OF A CAPTIVE RABIES VECTOR SPECIES

- Rabies Vector Species (RVS) are those wildlife species that have been identified as the most common carriers of the rabies virus and include raccoon, skunk, woodchuck, fox and bat.
- These species can carry the rabies virus for several months without showing any of the typical symptoms and it is important to handle these animals with caution. These species must be protected from the public and the public protected from the wildlife.
- Efforts must be made to keep the animals maintained in a secure manner so that it cannot get loose. You may not openly carry, walk or handle a RVS in any manner where it may be subject to public contact.
- Any incidents of bites, scratches, etc. may be cause to test the animal for rabies. Since there is no approved rabies vaccine for these species, testing the animal for rabies will require the animal to be euthanized.
- Please take extra precautions to prevent any possible contact with visitors to your home and members of the public.