



Lynchburg Police Department

Press Release



3/7/15

Since November 2015, the Lynchburg Animal Control Unit has responded to an unusually high number of calls involving sick foxes. As a result, they have had to euthanize over 30 of them and sent several off for testing. In cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the Health Department, Lynchburg Animal Control has determined that the fox population is suffering from Distemper at this time. (a viral disease that can affect a wide variety of animal families, including species of dogs, coyotes, foxes, ferrets, skunks, raccoons, some cats, and a variety of other species.)

Although the Distemper virus is not a threat to humans, it can be highly contagious to pets. Lynchburg City does not currently require vaccinations against this virus, however, the Animal Control Unit is asking pet owners to take precaution and vaccinate. Also, this is a good time to check your dog or cat and make sure that its Rabies vaccination is up to date. This is a requirement by law for all dogs and cats over the age of 4 months.

If you see a fox or any wildlife that is acting sick, not afraid of humans, or has made contact with your pets, then you need to call Animal Control immediately at 847-1602.

For more information on dealing with wildlife, rabies, and vaccinations please visit:

<http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/problems/>

<http://www.vdh.state.va.us/Epidemiology/factsheets/Rabies.htm>

https://www.municode.com/library/va/lynchburg/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH7ANFO_ARTIVRACO

Press Release completed by: **G.T. Jones**
Lynchburg Police Department

www.lynchburgva.gov/police

www.facebook.com/LynchburgPolice

Twitter: [@LynchburgPolice](https://twitter.com/LynchburgPolice)