



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**City of Duluth Police Department**

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218-730-5400 | [www.duluthmn.gov](http://www.duluthmn.gov) | Gordon Ramsay, Chief of Police

For more information contact Ron Tinsley, Public Information Officer 218-391-1510



**DATE: 04/08/2015**

**NATURE OF INCIDENT: Public Awareness on Distemper Virus**

**CASE NO.:**

**INCIDENT DATE :04/08/2015**

**INCIDENT TIME:**

**INCIDENT LOCATION: Duluth Area**

**SUBJECT: Public Awareness on Distemper Virus**

**BY: DPD Public Information Officer R. Tinsley (218) 730-5722**

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**The Duluth Police Department wants to make the public aware of the Distemper Virus. The Distemper Virus has accounted for several skunks in the area that contracted the virus and had to be euthanized by the Duluth Police Department.**

**Important things the public should know about the Distemper Virus:**

- **Humans are not at risk from Distemper as the disease cannot be passed on to humans.**
- **Canine and feline Distemper is highly contagious among domesticated and wild animals.**
- **Dog and cat owners should have their pets vaccinated for distemper.**
- **Domesticated animals can contract distemper from contact with infected animals as well as from humans who have had contact with infected animals.**

**Symptoms in animals may include difficulty breathing, vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration and anorexia. They may be depressed, have poor body condition, thick ocular and nasal discharge, disoriented, wander aimlessly, and have no fear of humans. They can experience, convulsions, paralysis, abnormal head and neck posture and loss of coordination.**

**The Duluth Police Department is asking that you do not approach wild animals especially if they are displaying signs of the Distemper Virus and to contact 911. Wild animals with distemper may appear tame and have no fear of humans. Please do not handle or pet them as they may try to bite you or you may transfer the virus to your pet. If you have questions regarding the Distemper Virus call your local veterinarian.**

