



# **SAFETY ALERT**

## *Multiple reports of suspected rabid animals*

We have received multiple reports of rabid animals in the area.

### **DO NOT APPROACH ANY ANIMAL EXHIBITING STRANGE BEHAVIOR.**

If you encounter any animal that seems sick or is acting strangely, call the **New Mexico Department of Wildlife** at **575-532-2100** and alert the nearest Forest Service Ranger District Office.

#### **For your safety, please follow these tips when venturing into the forest:**

- Ensure your pets are up to date on vaccinations, especially for rabies.
- Seal all small openings in housing and overnight dwellings (tents or cabins) so bats or other wildlife cannot enter.
- Do not feed wildlife. Store food and trash securely. Do not store food in your tent.
- Enjoy wildlife from a distance of at least 25 yards.
- Avoid wildlife during mating, nesting, raising young, or wintering periods as they are more vulnerable or protective.
- Stay on trails to minimize disturbance to wildlife habitats and reduce the risk of unexpected encounters.
- Keep pets under control.
- Make some noise to avoid surprising wildlife. Animals are less likely to react defensively if they hear you coming.
- If you encounter aggressive animals, don't run (which can trigger a predator response) —back away slowly while talking so animals know you are not prey. Use bear spray if necessary.
- Report animal-related incidents to the New Mexico Department of Wildlife at 575-532-2100.