RABIES FACT SHEET 2015

- **What is rabies?** Rabies is a viral disease that infects the nervous system, causing swelling of the brain and death.
- **Rabies in Colorado wildlife.** Rabies is found mostly in skunks and bats, but all species of carnivores, including foxes and raccoons, can also contract this disease. Mammals such as squirrels, wood rats, and bunnies are rarely infected as they are unlikely to survive an attack from a rabid animal.
- **How is rabies spread?** Rabies is found in the saliva (spit) of infected animals and is most often spread from one animal to another by a bite. The virus can be transmitted through a wound, open cuts in the skin, or onto mucous membranes like your nose and eyes. It is rarely spread airborne.
- **How do I know if an animal has rabies?** You cannot tell if an animal has rabies just by looking at it. Rabid animals may have trouble walking, flying, eating, and drinking because the virus affects the nervous system. Some show very few symptoms, especially in the early stages.
- **Can people contract rabies?** All mammals, including humans, can contract rabies, which almost always causes death unless post-exposure treatment is given.
- **What should I do if I have been or think I may have been bitten, scratched or in contact with saliva from an animal?** Promptly call your doctor for advice if an animal bites you. **Call Boulder County Health Department at 303-413-7500 to report the injury.**

I have read and understand the Rabies Fact Sheet and understand the risks involved with handling a rabies vector species.

Signature__________________________________Print name________________________________ Date______________