



Tennessee Veterinary  
Medical Association

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## **Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association Statement on Skunks as Pets**

As a matter of public health, skunks do not make 'safe' or 'good' pets. Even when bred in captivity, skunks are at risk of contracting rabies, just as a pet cat or dog would be. However, there is not currently an FDA approved rabies vaccine for use in skunks. So far this year, there have been as many skunks positive for rabies as all other species combined. The Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association feels a very real concern for public health implications should skunks be allowed as pets.

Founded in 1909, TVMA is committed to advancing the science and art of veterinary medicine. Consisting of more than 1200 members, TVMA works to ensure that laws and regulations promote the health and well-being of all animals, and protect public health and human welfare. For more information, visit [www.tvmanet.org](http://www.tvmanet.org).