



# Rye Brook Police Department NEWS RELEASE

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**POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CHIEF OF POLICE**  
Gregory J. Austin

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## COYOTE KILLED ON MONDAY TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 8, 2010

Contact: Chief Gregory J. Austin  
(914) 937-1020

The Westchester County Department of Health notified the Village of Rye Brook Police Chief today that the coyote shot and killed in Rye Brook on Monday, September 6 tested positive for rabies. This could explain the unusually aggressive behavior demonstrated by this particular coyote.

Rye Brook residents are urged to contact the Police Department at (914) 937-1020 should they observe any coyotes, or if they see any other wildlife exhibiting erratic or lethargic behavior. Any physical contact with these wild animals should also be reported to the Police Department.

Additional information about Rabies and prevention can be found by calling the Westchester County Department of Health Rabies Hotline at 914-813-5010.

*According to the Westchester County Department of Health web site:  
"Rabies is an acute viral infection of the central nervous system that affects mammals. It is transmitted by the bite of an infected animal and results in a terminal infection with a clinical period of 3-7 days, after a typical incubation period of 2 weeks to 3 months. A rabid animal can only transmit the disease through the saliva during the terminal clinical period and for as many as 5 days prior to showing signs of the disease. Rabies in most animals is characterized by changes of behavior (including aggressiveness or unusual friendliness) and paralysis, especially of the hindquarters and throat. Although rabies is primarily transmitted by bite there is some risk of infection should saliva or nervous tissue from a rabid animal get into an open wound or onto mucous membranes. In the United States, the primary maintenance hosts for rabies continue to be foxes, skunks, raccoons and bats. These species of animals continue to be infected year after year transmitting infection by bite within the species and frequently to other species." (Source: New York State Department of Health)*

If you or a pet has had contact with a wild animal, call the Westchester County Department of Health at 914-813-5000.

More information is available at [www.westchestergov.com/health/rabies.htm](http://www.westchestergov.com/health/rabies.htm) or

NYS Department of Health: <http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/>

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