



## NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 5, 2004**

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Fossil Rim Wildlife Center's Animal Health Director, Robin Radcliffe DVM, confirmed that a Barbados sheep that was euthanized on Friday, July 30 after showing symptoms of a neurological disease. Following all appropriate procedures, the sheep was sent to the Texas Department of Health (TDH) for tests. On Wednesday, August 4, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center was notified that rabies had been confirmed in the sheep. The sheep resided at the Children's Animal Center at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. At the request of the TDH the Children's Animal Center has been quarantined and closed to the public for 90 days.

In conjunction with the Texas Department of Health (TDH), officials at Fossil Rim advise anyone who visited the Children's Animal Center between July 10 and July 30 to contact a doctor or the TDH control office in Arlington at 817-264-4920. More information is available at [www.tdh.state.tx.us/news/news.htm](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/news/news.htm)

"Fossil Rim is located in a rural setting and although rabies has not been identified previously in any of our collection animals, and is most unusual in sheep, we are taking this recent finding very seriously. The protection of our visitors and the health of our animals are our top priority," states Robin Radcliffe DVM, Director of Animal Health at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center.

"We immediately worked in partnership with the TDH to protect our visitors, staff and animals from further exposure including the closing of the Children's Animal Center. Fossil Rim is committed to providing a quality, educational and safe family atmosphere. We will do everything possible to maintain a safe environment," states Dr. Patrick Condy, Executive Director of Fossil Rim Wildlife Center.

"The only animal concerned in this incidence was a Barbados sheep named Cybil, who was a woolly, small, and rusty brown color with black lower legs and no horns. She was sixteen years old, which is old for a sheep. There is a variety of other sheep and goats at the Children's Animal Center, all of which are larger in body size, or have horns or have some white body coloration. A photograph of Cybil is available on our website at [www.fossilrim.org](http://www.fossilrim.org). All of these are currently vaccinated for rabies and the facility is under a 90-day quarantine.

At the request of the TDH, The Children's Animal Center at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center has been closed for 90 days, however, the Scenic Drive, Overlook and tours will remain open. Fossil Rim Wildlife Center and TDH will continue to communicate updates as needed.

To contact the TDH, please call James Wright DVM, Zoonosis Control Division in Arlington at 817-264-4920.

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