



Raccoons on the rise

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KIMT News 3 – An animal you mostly see at night is on the rise in north Iowa and it could be carrying a fatal disease.

In a spotlight survey done by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Raccoons are trending upward in population. Floyd County went from nearly 20 raccoons to 40 in a year. In many cases distemper is being found in them, a disease that can lead to death.

“It can be transmitted to people’s pets, usually dogs since it’s canine distemper but it can’t be transmitted to humans so we encourage folks to keep their vaccinations updated on their pets,” Vince Evelsizer, Furbearer Wildlife Biologist with the Iowa DNR said.

Why an increase? EVELSIZER says that’s linked to mild winters and raccoon’s pelt dropping in the fur trade.