

Rabies Bites!

Protect yourself. Protect your pet.



What is rabies?

Rabies is a potentially fatal disease that attacks the nervous system of warm-blooded animals, including humans. A bite from an infected animal is the most common way rabies is spread. It can also spread when infected saliva comes into contact with a scratch, open wound or your mouth, nose or eyes.

How do I protect myself from rabies?

- don't touch sick or injured animals
- don't approach or touch wild or unfamiliar animals, even if they seem friendly
- don't feed wild or stray animals
- keep bats out of your home
- know where your pet is at all times when outdoors
- keep pets away from wild animals or other unfamiliar pets
- keep animals on a leash, especially when walking on trails
- keep pets indoors at night and don't feed them outside where food can attract wildlife

What is Public Health's role in rabies investigations?

If the animal involved can be located: The Public Health Inspector will place the animal under observation, in the animal owner's home, for at least 10 days to ensure it doesn't show any signs of rabies.

If the animal involved cannot be found OR if the animal involved is a wild animal: The Public Health Inspector will work with the person who was bitten, and their physician, to ensure proper post-exposure care. This may include rabies vaccination to protect you from the rabies virus.

If the animal involved has died: The Public Health Inspector will request that the animal undergo testing for the rabies virus.

When notified of a biting incident, Public Health Inspectors investigate to determine if there is a risk of rabies exposure.



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