

# Rabies Bites!

Protect yourself. Protect your pet.



## For animal owners

### What is rabies?

Rabies is a potentially fatal viral 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.

### What happens if my pet bites/scratches someone?

- Provide your name and contact information to the person bitten/scratched.
- A Public Health Inspector will contact you to gather information on your pet and discuss the next steps.

### 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.

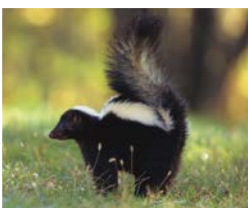
During the confinement period, the animal must:

- be kept in a manner to prevent contact with people and other animals, except for the usual household residents
- be kept on a leash and under direct control at all times when taken out for a walk
- not receive any vaccinations until after the confinement period has ended
- not under **any** circumstances be released from your care or destroyed (except for humane purposes as determined by a Veterinarian)

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



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