

# RABIES



Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. Rabies virus is in the saliva and nervous tissue of a sick animal.

Rabies is most often seen in wildlife animals such as raccoons, bats, skunks and foxes. Cats, dogs, ferrets and livestock can also get rabies if they are not vaccinated to protect them.

You can get rabies if a rabid animal bites you or its saliva or nervous tissue gets into an open cut or your eyes, nose or mouth.

**To protect  
yourself, your  
family, and your  
pets...**

Don't feed, touch or adopt wild animals, stray dogs or cats.



Be sure your dog, cat or ferret has up-to-date rabies vaccinations. Pets too young to be vaccinated should be kept indoors.

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Don't try to separate fighting animals. Put gloves on before touching your pet if it has been in a fight.



Don't attract animals to your yard. Feed pets inside, don't leave them outside alone and don't let them run free.



A rabid animal may be unusually mean or friendly. Stay away from any animal that seems dazed or paralyzed.



Never touch a bat. If you see a bat indoors, tell an adult to call the county health department — don't let the bat get away — it may need to be tested for rabies.



Tell an adult and wash the wound immediately if you are bitten or scratched by any animal. Tell an adult to call your doctor and the county health department immediately.

**For more information, contact your county health department.**