

Protect Your Family and Pets—Prevent Rabies



Why are we concerned about rabies?

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. You can become infected with rabies through the bite of an infected animal or by getting saliva from an infected animal into your eyes, mouth, or an open wound.

How can you protect you and your family from rabies?

The best way to prevent rabies is avoiding contact with wildlife and keeping your pet's rabies vaccination up-to-date. Dogs, cats, ferrets, horses and livestock can be vaccinated against rabies. If you are bitten, contact your doctor or the health department right away. You may need treatment.

How can you avoid being bitten?

- Be careful around strange pets, and treat all animals with respect.
- Teach children not to approach or pet strange animals.
- Never leave a small child or baby alone with a pet.
- If threatened by an animal, speak calmly and avoid eye contact. Don't yell or turn and run.

If your pet bites someone, what should you do?

- Restrain your pet and remove it from the scene of the attack.
- Give your contact information and your pet's rabies vaccine history to the person who was bitten. Also give it to animal control or the health department.
- Have the person who is bitten wash the wound with soap and water right away and then see a doctor.

For more information go to: <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>

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