



Rabies Facts

- Rabies virus is a very dangerous microscopic virus that is shaped like a bullet. Rabies is rare in most places, but is a big problem because almost every person and animal infected by rabies dies from it.
- Rabies can infect the brain of any animal with fur. Birds, fish and reptiles like turtles do not get rabies.
- In Canada and the USA, the animals that are infected with rabies the most are racoons, skunks, foxes, bats and coyotes.
- An animal with rabies can infect other animals or people by biting them. The virus is in their spit.
- Animals with rabies may look completely normal, but sometimes they can act very strange. They may be very mean or very friendly, or not be able to walk straight or stand up.



How Can I Keep My Pet From Getting Rabies?

- If you have a dog, cat or ferret, your veterinarian can give your pet an injection (a needle) called a vaccine that will help protect it in case it is bitten by an animal with rabies.
- Don't let your pet go near or chase strange dogs, cats or wild animals.
- Keep your pet away from bats.



How Can I Stay Safe From Rabies?



- If your pet ever gets bitten by a strange animal, tell a grown-up right away.
- NEVER go near any wild animal or a dog or cat you don't know. If the animal looks like it is sick or sleeping it may still bite.
- A wild animal that does not run away from you is very strange, and may act that way because it has rabies. Stay away and tell a grown-up right away.
- Stay away from bats. If you see a bat anywhere in your house, close the door to the room it's in and tell a grown-up right away, even if the bat gets out again.

What Should I Do If An Animal Bites Me?

- If you are ever bitten by ANY animal, it is very important that you tell a grown-up right away, even if it doesn't hurt.
- A grown-up will help you clean the bite really well. You will need to put some disinfectant on it, which is very important to help kill bacteria and viruses in the bite so they don't make you sick later.
- If it was a wild animal that bit you, or any animal that could have rabies, the doctor will give you an injection with a very small needle, just like your veterinarian gives your pet.
- You will have to go back to the doctor to have the injection a few more times. The injection helps your body kill the virus before it can make you sick, so you won't get rabies.

