

When some people think of Rabies, they remember the Old Yeller movie scene where the faithful dog is penned up while the family waits to see if it becomes vicious and foaming at the mouth. It does and the once loving dog has to be killed. Some people hear of Rabies and think of many scary needles, filled with large quantities of fluid being injected into the stomach. The facts about Rabies involves more than vicious pets and hospital horror scenes. Getting the facts are important in order to avoid spreading Rabies or false information.

- In Canada, skunks, bats and foxes are the most common animals to get the disease. Rabies is spread through saliva. This includes bites and also when the saliva comes in contact with a scratch or the mouth, nose or eyes.

FACT: Rabies can only be officially diagnosed by examining the brain after death

It can take 10 days to 2 years for

Rabies symptoms to appear in humans,

and 10 days to 8 weeks in animals. Once the symptoms appear, the animal or human has no chance of recovery.

Avoid the Disease

- *Have your pets vaccinated
- *Do not touch injured wild mammals.
- *Enjoy wildlife from a distance
- *Educate your children to be animal aware
- *Cover garbage cans.
- *Do not leave pet food outside
- *Do not touch injured wild mammals.
- *Prevent bats from entering your home.

Report possible rabid wild animals to:

Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development 204-470-1108

If a biting incident involving a suspected rabid animal has occurred, wash area with soap and water. Immediately contact Health Links 1-888-315-9257, or get medical treatment at a hospital or clinic. The local Public Health Nurse will be in contact to discuss the incident as it is their duty to assess any risk to humans and organize the treatment if the risk to the person is deemed high. It is a very specifically timed, multi-day treatment involving injections of vaccine and immunoglobulin. People must be treated within a short time limit after the exposure in order to beat the disease. Not all possible exposures warrant treatment. The nurse will assess the exposure risk and a plan of action will be based on that information.

Get Mad about Rabies. Vaccinate your pets and educate your loved ones. It IS preventable!



Interlake-Eastern
Regional Health Authority

Types of Rabies

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system of mammals, including humans. It can appear in two forms.

“Furious Rabies” symptoms include aggression, lack of fear, periods of excitement alternating with periods of depression. An example is a usually friendly dog growling and showing its teeth to its master

“Dumb Rabies” has symptoms including depression, lack of fear and paralysis of facial or hind leg muscles. This would include a skunk walking around in the afternoon, possibly drooling.