

## Get your pets vaccinated!

Once symptoms develop, rabies is always fatal. The rabies virus attacks the brain and central nervous system, and is transmitted to humans primarily through the bite or sometimes scratch of an infected animal.

All dogs, cats and ferrets should be vaccinated.



(Check with your veterinarian on the frequency.)

Don't forget to vaccinate your horses, cows and other livestock. Especially animals that are particularly valuable or have frequent contact with humans (e.g., fairs, petting zoos, other public exhibitions) and horses traveling interstate should be current on their rabies vaccine.



## *tidbits*

- ♦ From 1995 - 2010, 45 cases of human rabies were recorded. Of these, only two persons survived.
- ♦ During 2009 - Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recorded 6,690 cases of rabies in animals and 4 cases in humans.

Wildlife = 92% (6,155)

- Raccoons - 34.8%
- Bats - 24.3%
- Skunks - 24.0%
- Foxes - 7.5%
- Other - 1.9%

Domestic Animals = 8% (535)

- Cats - 5.6%
- Dogs - 1.5%
- Cattle - 1.38%

## Resources

- \* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) - <http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>
- \* American Veterinarian Medical Foundation (AVMA) - <https://www.avma.org/public/health/Pages/default.aspx>

# What you know about



## Could Save a Life!

 **Southwest Nebraska  
Public Health Department**

PREVENT • PROMOTE • PROTECT

404 West 10th ST • McCook, NE 69001  
308-345-4223 • [www.swhealth.ne.gov](http://www.swhealth.ne.gov)

## What is rabies?

Rabies is caused by a virus. After the virus gets into the body it attacks the brain. Rabies can kill both people and animals.

## How do you get rabies?

You get rabies when an animal with rabies bites you or when saliva or other tissue from an animal with rabies gets into your eyes, nose, mouth or an open sore.

You can get shots to keep you from getting sick with rabies if you are exposed to the rabies virus. Even so, a few people in the US die of rabies each year. This is because they don't know the risk of rabies from animal bites and do not get the shots.



Infected human rabies bite.

## What do BATS have to do with it?

- 1) Most of the people that die from rabies in the US get it from bats, even though most bats do not have rabies.
- 2) Bats that have rabies may be out during the day, or may not be able to fly well and they may be found inside homes or gardens.
- 3) You cannot tell if a bat has rabies by looking at it. **NEVER TOUCH OR PLAY WITH A BAT.**
- 4) You can be bitten by a bat and not know it. Bats have small, sharp teeth so the bite may not hurt or the person may not be able to see the bite mark.



## What about other animals?

Any animal can have rabies or other diseases. **Never touch, keep, feed, or hold wild or stray animals.** Even if they are cute, they seem hungry or hurt.

**Teach kids to LOOK - NOT Touch wild animals !!**

Skunks, raccoons, foxes and coyotes are the wild animals in our area that are most likely to have rabies.



## HELP PREVENT RABIES

### Animal bites and scratches:

If you are bitten by any kind of animal:

- Wash the wound well with lots of soap and water
- Call your doctor right away
- Call Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (308-345-4223)

### You may need rabies or other shots

If your pet is bitten, scratched or in a fight with any animal:

- Wear gloves while touching your pet until you have washed your pet well with soap and water
- Call your veterinarian, even if your pet is up to date on his rabies shots.

### Keep bats out of your house!

Check the outside of your home for ways bats can get inside:

- All holes larger than **1 inch** should be closed
- Use screens on all doors and windows
- Cap chimneys
- Fill holes around wires and tubes that go inside your home
- Make sure doors and windows are shut tight
- Put draft-guards under doors to the attic



**Most bats leave homes in fall and winter, so this is the best time to “bat - proof” your home.**