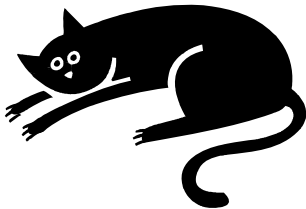


Warning Signs That An Animal May Have Rabies

Animals with rabies may act differently than healthy animals. Wild animals may move slowly and act tame. A pet that is usually friendly may snap at you and try to bite.

Some signs of rabies in animals are:

- Changes in an animal's behavior.
- General sickness.
- Problems swallowing.
- Increased drooling (known as "foaming at the mouth").
- Aggression (acting mean).



The Meriden Health Department wants you to stay safe!

Share the tips in this brochure with your family and friends.

For more information on rabies, please contact the Meriden Health Department at 630-4226.



The information in this brochure was gathered from these websites:

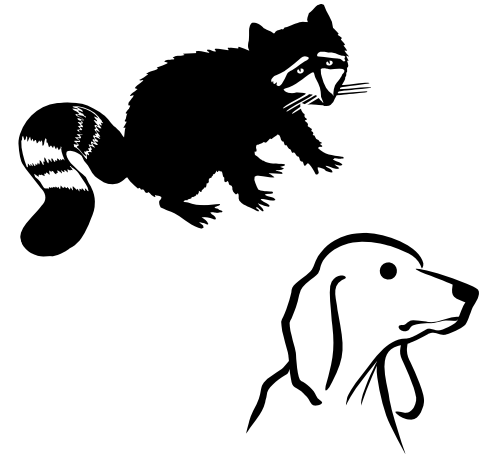
www.cdc.gov

www.kidshealth.org

October, 2006

Rabies

Info for Kids



How to stay safe around animals

Tips from the
Meriden Health Department
Environmental Health Division
165 Miller Street
Meriden, CT 06450

What is rabies?

Rabies is a serious infection of the nervous system, which controls everything you do – from breathing to walking. A person can get rabies if he or she is bitten or scratched by an animal that is sick with the rabies virus. If someone does get bit by an animal that has rabies, there is medicine that they can take to prevent them from getting sick.

What animals can get rabies?

Raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats, dogs, and cats can get rabies. Cattle (cows) and humans can get rabies, too. Only mammals can get rabies. Animals that are not mammal – like birds, snakes, and fish – do not get rabies.



How does the animal get rabies?

Rabies is caused by a virus. An animal gets rabies from saliva, usually from a bite of an animal that has the disease.

How can I stop my pet dog or cat from getting rabies?

Ask an adult if your pet has gotten a vaccine for rabies, which is a shot to stop them from getting sick if they are bitten by an animal that has rabies.



Animals can be great fun, but it's important to know how to be safe when you are with them. Both indoor and outdoor animals need to be treated kindly all the time. With a wild animal, being kind may mean staying far away so the animal does not get scared and so you stay safe.

Here are some tips to stay safe:

- **Do not touch or go near animals when outdoors.** Although some of these animals may look cool or even cute, leave them alone.
- **Don't ever** try to feed a wild animal, even if they look hungry.
- **Never** pet or touch a stray dog or cat, even if it runs up to you and seems like it is friendly.
- If a dog starts running toward you, **do not run.**
- If a pet looks sick or is injured, **stay far away.** Tell an adult so he or she can get help for the animal.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE BIT OR SCRATCHED BY AN ANIMAL

If you are ever scratched or bitten by an animal (even your pet) tell an adult. He or she can take you to the doctor if needed. Tell the grownup everything you know about the animal that hurt you. If the animal is wild, let the adult know where you last saw it.

If you are scratched or bitten:

- Tell an adult right away!
- Wash the scratch or bite with soap and water for 10 minutes.
- Have the adult call your doctor.

The doctor will ask you:

- What kind of animal bit or scratched you?
- How did the animal act?
- How do you feel now?

You might have to get a shot from the doctor. This shot will help you from getting sick.

