

RABIES PREVENTION CHECKLIST

There are several things you can do to protect you and your pet from rabies.

- Take your pet to a veterinarian on a regular basis to maintain up-to-date on rabies vaccinations.
- Maintain control of your pets by keeping them under direct supervision when they are out of the house.
- Call the Pasadena Humane Society and SPCA at (626) 792-7151, to remove all stray animals from your neighborhood since these animals may be unvaccinated or ill. Do not approach, handle, or attempt to feed any unfamiliar animals.
- Discourage wild animals from foraging around your home by keeping the yard clean and free from any accessible food source (pet food, trash can, and fallen fruits).
- Seal holes or gaps in your house where bats and other animals could enter and nest.

ABOUT THE PASADENA HUMANE SOCIETY AND SPCA

The Pasadena Humane Society and SPCA will respond to all calls about stray and injured animals, barking dogs, dog bites, assisting homeowners with the removal of wildlife (raccoons, opossums, coyotes), and picking up dead animals on public streets.

More information is available at website www.pasadenahumane.org.

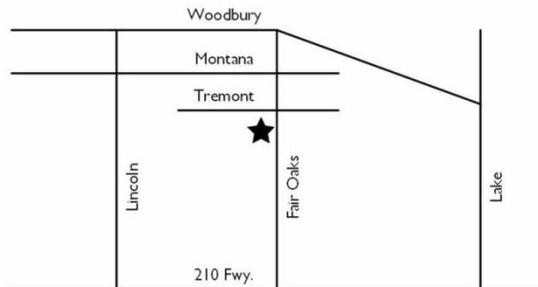


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CITY OF PASADENA Public Health

DEPARTMENT

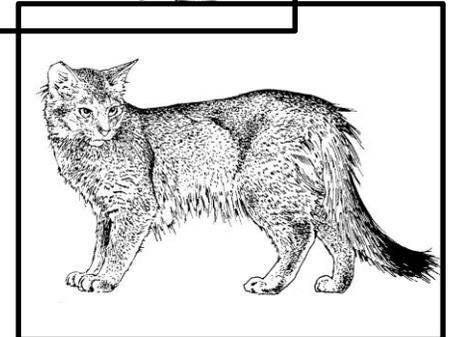
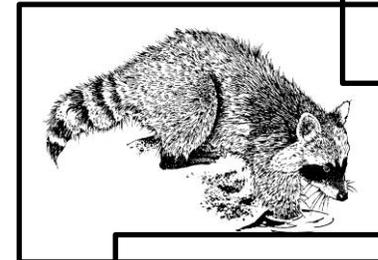
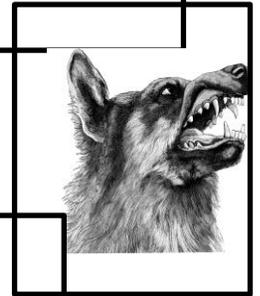
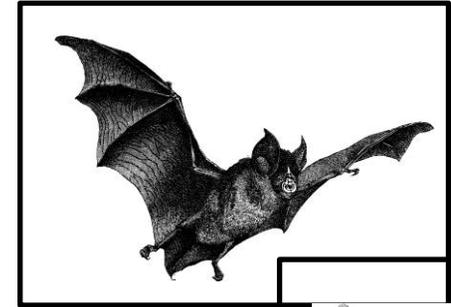
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RABIES



Environmental Health Division
Pasadena Public Health Department
(626) 744-6004

WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a viral disease that causes progressive, fatal problems to the central nervous system. Rabies is almost always caused by the bite of a rabid animal.

Human rabies is rare in the United States; only about 15 human rabies cases have occurred in California since 1980.

WHICH ANIMALS GET RABIES?

All mammals can be infected with rabies. In Pasadena, the most common rabies carriers are likely raccoons, skunks, and bats. Rabies is also found in other wild animals of the *Canidae* family such as coyotes, foxes, and wolves. Other reservoir animals include bobcats, mongooses, ferrets, feral cats, opossums, and even domestic farm animals.

Domestic animals (pets) can also get rabies. Cats, dogs, and cattle are the most commonly reported rabid domestic animals.

Small rodents (such as squirrels, rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, and chipmunks) and lagomorphs (such as rabbits and hares) are almost never found to be infected with rabies and have not been known to cause rabies among humans in the United States. Although these animals are not prone to rabies, they may carry other diseases.

HOW DO PEOPLE GET RABIES?

Humans contract rabies when the bite of an infected animal breaks the skin.

It is also possible, but rare, to acquire the disease when saliva that contains the virus enters via an open wound or mucous membranes (i.e. eyes, nose, or mouth.)

Person-to-person transmission of rabies is rare and not well documented.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS IN HUMANS?

The symptoms of rabies can vary and there is no single symptom that consistently suggests rabies. Typically, patients first experience flu-like symptoms including fever, headache, and fatigue about 4 to 8 weeks after exposure to the virus. Other symptoms can include tingling, itching, or numbness at the bite site; difficulty walking, speaking, or swallowing; and lapses of consciousness, confusion, and agitation. People with rabies may become comatose and die, usually due to cardiac failure, without preventive medical intervention.

Current treatments have not been shown to be effective once symptoms occur.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RABIES IN ANIMALS?

In general, signs of rabies differ by species and stage of the disease. The most obvious sign of rabies is abnormal behavior, including:

- Wild animals acting unusually friendly or tame and readily approaching people.
- Animals that are normally nocturnal are active during the daytime.
- Bats that cannot fly or have been caught by a dog or cat.
- Pets that have difficulty walking, eating, or drinking, or whose personalities change.
- Dogs that have foaming at the mouth.

WHY DOES MY PET NEED THE RABIES VACCINE?

Although the majority of rabies cases occur in wildlife, people are more likely to acquire the disease from domestic animals due to greater interaction. Therefore, pets should receive vaccination against rabies. All dogs over the age of 4 months are required by the State of California to be immunized.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM BIT BY A RABID ANIMAL?

If you are bit by a wild or rabid animal, you should immediately wash the bite site with soap and warm water. Seek immediate medical attention for any animal bite.

If you are bit by a dog or cat suspected to be infected with rabies, immediately wash the wound with warm water and soap. Have the dog or cat evaluated by a veterinarian and seek medical advice about the need for anti-rabies prophylaxis.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY PET IS BIT BY A WILD ANIMAL?

Any pet that is bit or scratched by a wild, carnivorous mammal or a bat should be regarded as having been exposed to rabies.

Unvaccinated pets that have been exposed to a rabid animal may need to be euthanized immediately. If you are unwilling to have this done, the pet must be placed in strict isolation for 6 months and vaccinated 1 month before being released.

Animals with expired vaccinations may need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Pets that are current on their vaccinations should be observed for 45 days.

If your pet brings a wild animal home, do not handle the animal. Call the Pasadena Humane Society at (626) 792-7151 to request wild animal removal.