



ABC's of RABIES

All Bites Call

Reporting All Bites Including Exposures Saves

Why should I report a bite?

Reporting an animal bite, even if you own the animal or know the owner, is important to reduce the chances of spreading disease.

If You Were Bitten by a Dog, Cat or Other Pet

- Report the bite to the local Police Department and local Health Department.
- Get owner name, pet name, address and contact number.
- If you don't know the owner or the animal has left the area you are in, contact local Police Department immediately.
- If bitten while passing by a leashed dog, get the owner's information. Do not wait to check the bite when you get home. It may be too late to find the owner and you may have to get rabies shots. Clean the wound as soon as possible and contact your doctor.
- All dogs and cats that have bitten a person need to be confined or isolated for 10 days.. Usually this can be done by the owner, in their home.
- If the animal shows no signs of illness and is alive after 10 days, the animal did not have rabies when it bit you and you do not need rabies shots.
- If the animal shows signs of rabies, the animal will be tested and you may need to get rabies shots.

If You Were Bitten by a Wild Animal (bat*, skunk, fox, raccoon, etc.)

- Watch the animal so that it can be captured. It is ok for you to capture the animal if you can do so without being bitten again.
- If you need to kill the animal, don't damage the head. The animal head will be sent to a lab for rabies testing. If the animal can't immediately be sent to the lab, keep it cool since heat and time break down tissue needed for testing.
- Clean the wound, report to Local Health Department and seek medical attention immediately.
- If the animal's rabies test is positive, you need to receive rabies shots as soon as possible.
- If the animal's rabies test is negative, you were not exposed to rabies at the time of the incident.
- If the animal was not captured or if the test came back indeterminate (uncertain), talk to your doctor. You may need to start rabies shots as soon as possible.

*What you need to know about bats

Bat bites are hard to detect. If you find a bat in a room with a sleeping person, an unattended child, a mentally disabled person, a pet, or someone under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they may not realize they were bitten. Safely capture the bat and keep it cold or keep it in a room with the doors and windows closed. DON'T SET IT FREE. Visit <https://washingtoncountyny.gov/PublicHealth> and go to the Rabies page to watch a video on how to capture a bat.

ONLY if you are **SURE** that no people or pets have come in contact with the bat:

- Confine it to a room by closing all doors and windows, except those leading outside, giving it a chance to leave.
- Be extremely careful when doing this to avoid being bitten.