

What To Do If You Are Bitten By An Animal

- Wash the wound immediately with soap and water for several minutes to remove any germs. Animals bites can become severely infected within hours.
- Talk with your doctor about the type of animal that bit you, and where on your body the animal bit you. Your doctor will determine if you need rabies vaccines.
- You will also need your wound to be looked at by your doctor. Your doctor may give you medicine to prevent an infection.
- Ask your doctor if you need to have your tetanus shot updated.
- The Humane Society of Scott County will take a report to follow-up on the animal that bit you.

Reporting Animal Bites

Humane Society of Scott County - Animal Protection Services



563-388-6655 option 2



<https://hssc.us>

Scott County Health Department



563-326-8618



www.scottcountyiowa.gov/health



Scott County Health Department
600 W 4th Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801



Animal Bites and Rabies



Scott County Health Department

What We Do

→ The Scott County Health Department works with individuals, healthcare providers, hospitals, schools, and the Humane Society of Scott County, to keep our community safe and healthy from rabies. The Scott County Health Department uses guidelines from Iowa Health and Human Services (Iowa HHS) to provide people who live in Scott County with the most accurate and up-to-date education on rabies.

About Rabies

→ Rabies is a fatal brain infection of mammals, including humans. If a person becomes sick with rabies through the bite of an infected animal, it can take days or even years to become ill. If a person does not start the rabies medicine before symptoms begin, they will die. **Rabies is a 100% fatal illness, but it is also 100% preventable.** Recognizing an exposure can be lifesaving.

What Animals Carry Rabies?



Any mammal can carry rabies, including dogs, cats, and people, but raccoons, skunks, and bats are most common in Iowa. If you come across wildlife or a stray, leave it alone. If an animal is acting strange or looks sick, it may have rabies. Animals that never go outside, and those that are vaccinated, are at very little risk for rabies, but any animal can be infected with rabies if exposed to another infected animal.

"Vaccinate your pets, protect your family. Rabies prevention starts at home."

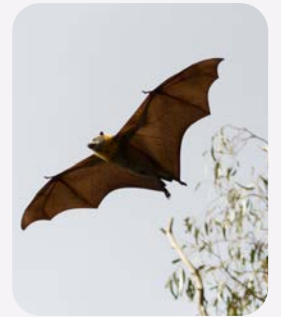
Bats and Rabies

Bats can pass rabies without a person knowing they have been bitten, so it is important to recognize an exposure and seek medical care right away. In the US, most rabies in humans involve bat exposures. Bats' teeth are so small, that a person may not realize they were bitten. Seek medical care if:

- you wake up to a bat in your room.
- a bat is found in the same room with a child, person with dementia, mental challenges, or under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- you cannot say with 100% certainty "I know I was not bitten".

Bat Handling and Care

Bats should be handled with special care to avoid exposure to rabies. Never handle a bat with your bare hands. If you find a bat in your home wear thick safety gloves. Do not touch the bat, cover it with a box or tote, then slide something flat under the box to contain the bat. It can then be released safely outside.



Note: If you or someone in your home may have been exposed, safely contain the bat and call Animal Protection Services at 563-388-6655 to remove the bat from your home and send it in for rabies testing.



For more information about rabies, visit <https://hhs.iowa.gov/health-prevention/animal-safety-and-disease-prevention/rabies> or contact the Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology at 800-362-2736 with questions. For non-urgent questions email rabies@hhs.iowa.gov.