



Get Mad About Rabies!

What is rabies?

- Rabies is a viral disease that attacks the nervous system of all mammals
- Rabies is nearly always fatal once symptoms appear
- Raccoons, skunks, foxes, cats, and bats are the most common rabid animals in Maryland

How is rabies spread?

- Rabies virus is in the saliva of infected animals and is spread by a bite
- Being scratched or having saliva come in contact with eyes, nose, mouth or open wounds may also be rabies exposures

Can I tell if an animal has rabies?

- Changes in an animal's behavior may indicate rabies
 - ◆ Wild animals may act friendly
 - ◆ Domestic animals may become aggressive
- Rabid animals may stagger, drool, or become paralyzed

What if I have been bitten or exposed?

- Get the name and address of the animal's owner
 - ◆ If there is no owner, remember what the animal looks like
- Immediately wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water
- Seek medical attention promptly
- Report the bite or exposure to your local animal control agency, health department, or police

Protect your family and pets!

- Have your dogs, cats, and ferrets vaccinated regularly
- Do not let pets roam free
- Enjoy wildlife from a distance
- Teach children to stay away from animals they don't know
- Cover garbage cans securely and do not leave pet food outside
- Prevent bats from entering your home



Maryland Department of Health
Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases
410-767-5649 or email: mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov

Contact your local health department at:

Center for Zoonotic and Vector-Borne Diseases
<http://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/SitePages/rabies.aspx>