

# RABIES PREVENTION

- VACCINATE YOUR PETS.
- Put ID and rabies tags on your pets. If in Fort Wayne, your dog or cat must have a license.
- Keep trash in metal containers with tight lids.
- Stay away from wild animals.
- Stay away from animals acting strangely.
- Walk your dog with a leash. Do not let your dog or cat run loose.
- Do not leave pet food outside between meal times.
- If a bat is inside your house, open windows/doors to let it escape or call Animal Control to catch it.
- Make your house inaccessible to wild animals.
- Wild animals should not be kept as pets.
- Do not handle sick or injured animals



# WHAT TO DO IF EXPOSED

1. If exposed, immediately wash the site with soap and water. Squeeze the area to make the wound bleed.
2. Contact Animal Control and your personal doctor or the Health Department for further advisement.
3. Receive medical assistance.

## WHO TO CALL

Fort Wayne-Allen County  
Department of Health  
(260) 449-7494

Allen County Animal Control  
(260) 449-7491

Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control  
(260) 427-1244

New Haven Animal Control  
(260) 493-1517



# RABIES PREVENTION



Protect Your Pet and  
Your Family

## WHAT IS RABIES?

- Rabies is an acute and deadly viral infection of the central nervous system. It attacks the brain and spinal cord.
- It affects wild and domestic animals and humans.
- “Rabies” comes from a Latin word that means “to rage.”
- It is also called hydrophobia or “fear of water.”
- Rabies is found in all of the U.S., except Hawaii.
- In 2000, 5 people died from rabies in the U.S.
- About 18,000 Americans receive post-exposure treatment each year because of contact with animals suspected of being rabid.
- Human symptoms show after 30-90 days. Once symptoms appear, the victim usually dies.



## ANIMALS THAT CAN CARRY RABIES

Skunks	<i>Dogs</i>
Raccoons	Groundhogs
Bats	Coyotes
<i>Cats</i>	Wolves
Foxes	<i>Ferrets</i>

*\*Animals in italics must be vaccinated yearly.*

## RABIES WARNING SIGNS

- Changes in an animal’s behavior
- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Problem swallowing
- Increase in drool/saliva
- Excessive irritability
- Unusual vocalization
- Wild animals that appear abnormally tame or sick
- Tremors/convulsions
- Unprovoked aggression
- Restlessness
- Difficulty moving or paralysis
- Death
- Signs show about 1-3 months after exposure.

## HOW RABIES IS SPREAD

### FROM ANIMAL TO ANIMAL

### FROM ANIMAL TO HUMAN

- Bites from contagious animals
- Contagious animals licking other animals or humans

## RABIES TRANSMISSION

(An Example)

1. A rabid raccoon bites a dog.
2. Rabies virus enters the dog through infected saliva.
3. Rabies virus spreads through the nerves to the spinal cord and brain.
4. The virus incubates in the dog’s body about 3-12 weeks. The dog has no signs of illness during this time.
5. When it reaches the brain, the virus multiplies rapidly, passes to the salivary glands, and the dog begins to show signs of disease.
6. Infected animals usually die within 7 days of becoming sick.

