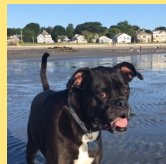


### What should you do if you think you are exposed to rabies?

- 1) Clean all wounds with soap and water.
- 2) Call your healthcare provider who will determine if you need treatment.
- 3) Contact your town's Animal Control Officer (ACO) if the suspected animal is domestic. Contact your local Game Warden if the suspected animal is wild.
- 4) Contact your veterinarian if you think your pet had a rabies exposure.



### How are rabies exposures treated?

For people, it is a combination of vaccine and rabies immunoglobulin (RIG) shots called "post-exposure prophylaxis". To work best, the series should begin as soon as possible after being exposed.

An unvaccinated person should get 4 doses of rabies vaccine, one shot at a time, over the course of 2 weeks, along with RIG.

A person who got pre-exposure vaccine should get 2 doses of rabies vaccine – one dose right away and one 3 days later; no RIG is necessary.

A person who has a weakened immune system should receive 5 doses of rabies vaccine over the course of a month.

If the suspected animal is caught and can be tested (if wild) or watched for signs of rabies (if domestic), your doctor should wait to see if treatment is needed for you.

### What can you do to prevent rabies?

**Vaccinate** both indoor and outdoor pets and livestock.

**Do not approach**, handle, or feed wildlife or unknown domestic animals.

**Do not move** wildlife from one area to another, as this can spread rabies.

**Report** sick, stray, or strange-acting animals.

**Contact a healthcare provider** right away, if bitten or scratched by an animal.

**If you wake up to a bat** in the bedroom, safely capture it and call Maine CDC.

**Consider the pre-exposure rabies vaccine** if you have frequent exposure to wild animals, such as if you are an Animal Control Officer, Game Warden, or veterinarian.



**Questions?**  
**Call Maine CDC at**  
**1-800-821-5821**

## Rabies Stinks

### What is rabies?

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the brain and spinal cord and is fatal if left untreated.

It is very rare in people in the United States. In Maine, it is most common in skunks, raccoons, bats, and foxes.

Rabies is spread when an infected animal bites or scratches another animal or person, or when saliva or brain tissue gets into an open cut, or into the mouth, nose, or eyes.

Rabies is not spread by petting a rabid animal, by touching dried saliva, or by urine, feces, blood, or skunk spray.

