



WARREN COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
COMMUNITIES OF CHOICE

Rabies- Ways to Protect Yourself and Your Family

1. Do not feed, touch or adopt wild animals and be cautious of stray dogs and cats. Rabid animals do not always appear ill or vicious.
2. Teach children to leave wildlife alone. Be sure your children know that they need to tell you immediately if they have been bitten or scratched by an animal.
3. Have your veterinarian vaccinate your animals against rabies. Keep pet vaccinations up to date.
4. Tightly close garbage cans. Open trash attracts wild or stray animals to your home or yard.
5. Feed your pets indoors; never leave pet food outside as it attracts other animals.
6. Call your doctor and your local health department for advice if an animal bites or claws you. Report the incident immediately.
7. Rabies is an infectious viral disease that affects the nervous system of humans and other mammals. People get rabies from the bite of an animal with rabies. Any wild mammal, like a raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, or bat can have rabies and transmit it to a person.
8. Tens of thousands of people are successfully treated each year after being bitten by an animal that may have rabies. Few people die of rabies each year in the United States, usually because they do not seek the proper treatment.
9. Most of the recent human rabies cases in the United States have been caused by the rabies virus in bats.
10. Rabies can be confirmed only in a laboratory. However, any bat that is active by day, or found in a place where bats are not usually seen, (ex. in a room, in your home or on the lawn) or unable to fly, is far more likely than others to be rabid. Such bats are often most easily approached. Therefore, it is best never to handle any bat.
11. If you are bitten by a bat, or if infectious material (such as saliva) from a bat gets into your eyes, nose, mouth, or a wound; wash the affected area thoroughly and get medical advice immediately. Whenever possible the bat should be captured and sent to a laboratory for testing.