

How to handle your pet after they have been exposed to a rabid animal



Do not put yourself in the middle of the altercation to break it up.

- ◆ This may result in your exposure to rabies and post exposure shots.
- ◆ Use a long pole, shovel, or broom to separate the animals.

Limit your contact with your animal.

- ◆ Direct your pet to a room, crate or if safe leave them in the yard. Try not to touch your pet as this will limit your exposure to rabies
- ◆ Do not wash your pet immediately as this could result in your exposure to the rabies virus.
- ◆ Do not spray your pet with cleaners.

***The rabies virus dies, when exposed to air, in about 2 hours. At this point you can no longer get rabies from touching your pet.



Ferrets need rabies vaccinations too.

Be Informed

Seek medical advice with your doctor or the Frederick Memorial Hospital ER for:

- ◆ Bites from wild animals
- ◆ Bites from unknown pets
- ◆ A bat is found in your home

FMH: ER Contact
Phone: 240-566-3500

Frederick County Animal Control
Phone: 301-600-1544

- **Bites in Frederick County should be reported to Animal Control
- **Contact animal control to pick up wild animals for rabies testing if human or pet exposure occurred

Frederick County Health Department
Phone: 301-600-3378

- **Source for human rabies post-exposure evaluation
Phone: 301-600-1715
- **Tests animals for rabies virus
- **Pet exposure evaluation

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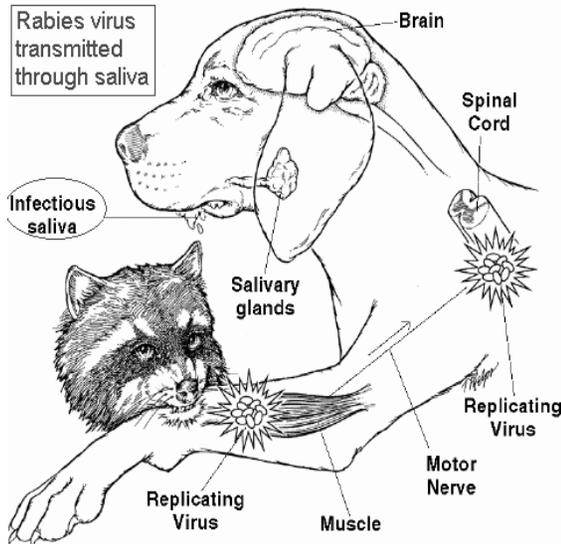
Rabies

Handling your pets after an altercation with a possible rabid animal



State Regulations (COMAR) for Rabies and how it affects Your Pets

State Regulations (COMAR 10.06.02) Rabies



Rabies

Rabies is a virus that attacks the nervous system of mammals. The virus is transmitted through saliva and enters the body through open wounds, skin breaks or mucous membranes.

Rabies is almost always fatal unless the patient receives prompt anti-rabies treatment.

Animals with rabies can present with a wide range of symptoms; from aggression to disorientation.

To prevent rabies:

- ◆ Keep pets vaccinated
- ◆ Keep away from wildlife and strays
- ◆ Avoid bare handed contact with animals if they have been in a fight with another animal

Your Pet Encountered a Rabid Animal

***Rabies status of an animal can only be determined by laboratory testing done through the Health Department.*

Vaccinated Pets:

- ◆ Your pet has a current rabies vaccination
- ◆ The Health Department will need to verify rabies vaccination history
- ◆ Your pet will be placed under a 45 day quarantine in your home
 - Limit contact with other animals
 - Limit contact with humans outside the household
 - Ensure a leash is always used
 - Rabies vaccination given to your animal at the beginning of the quarantine

Unvaccinated Pets:

- ◆ Your pet has never been vaccinated for rabies
- ◆ Animal Control will oversee a 4 month strict isolation and provide guidance in the set up.
 - Double-barrier, escape proof enclosure
 - Enclosure should ensure that the animal is unable to contact other animals
 - Human contact is limited to one person
 - Rabies vaccination given to your animal at the beginning of the isolation

Vaccinated Pet BUT Not Current

- ◆ Your pet has been vaccinated for rabies but it is not current
- ◆ The Health Department will evaluate your pet's rabies vaccination history and time lapsed
 - Your pet will be placed under a 45 day quarantine or 4 month isolation
- ◆ Rabies vaccination given to your animal at the beginning of the quarantine/isolation

Your Pet Bit Someone

Vaccinated and Unvaccinated pets:

- ◆ Animal Control will place your pet under a 10 day quarantine (this is to ensure that your pet does not have rabies and the person bitten does not have to get post exposure shots)
- ◆ Unvaccinated pets are required to have a rabies vaccine at the end of the 10 day quarantine
- ◆ Your vet will need to fill out the blue card provided by animal control and return it to the health department



Important Reminder

- ◆ Bats do transmit rabies.
- ◆ Bat bites may present as two tiny puncture wounds, a scratch or non visible wounds.
- ◆ If a bat is found in your house contact animal control to collect the bat and test it for rabies.
- ◆ Do not catch the bat yourself and do not release it
- ◆ Even when there are no visible marks from a bat bite it is important to test for rabies