

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

- VACCINATE YOUR PETS AGAINST RABIES.
- DO NOT HANDLE SICK, INJURED OR DEAD ANIMALS.
- REPORT ANIMAL BITES IMMEDIATELY.
- WASH ANIMAL BITES WITH SOAP AND WATER.
- GET PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL HELP FOR ANIMAL BITES.
- DO NOT ENCOURAGE WILD ANIMALS TO FREQUENT THE AREA OF YOUR RESIDENCE.



Young Raccoons

Acknowledgements
Photos of the fox and young raccoons from USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services Image Library
Photo of long-eared bat and skunk by Dr. Lloyd Glenn Ingles, California Academy of Sciences
(CalPhotos Collection)

REPORT ANIMAL BITES

IN RENO: Reno Police Animal Services
858-1616

IN SPARKS: Sparks Police Department
353-2218

IN WASHOE COUNTY (UNINCORPORATED)
Washoe County Animal Control
(Through Washoe Co. Sheriff's Disptach)
785-4629

If you are not sure, contact

Washoe County
District Health Department
**Vector-Borne Diseases
Program**

1001 East Ninth Street
P.O. Box 11130
Reno, NV 89520
(775) 785-4599



"I'm cute,
I bite,



...and I may
have rabies!"



District Health Department

WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the central nervous system of humans and other mammals. Rabies is usually spread from one animal to another (and to humans) through a bite. The virus is transmitted in the infected animal's saliva. It is possible although rare for a person to get rabies by direct entry of the saliva into the eyes, nose, mouth or an open wound. The majority of rabies cases occur in bats, skunks, foxes, raccoons, bobcats and coyotes. Rabies in humans is becoming a rare occurrence with usually less than 5 cases per year in the U.S. This is due to better rabies vaccination programs for pets and public education about rabies.

IS IT FATAL?

Yes, if the disease is allowed to develop in the person or animal infected. If you are exposed to rabies from a wild or domestic animal, you must get treatment right away to prevent the development of the disease. Once symptoms appear, it is too late to treat a person or animal.

RABID ANIMALS ARE IN AREA.

Most of the rabies found in Nevada in recent times has been in bats. Every year there are positive bats submitted and tested by the Department of Agriculture, Animal Disease and Food Safety Laboratory. The bats seen locally are insect eating animals and usually pose no health threat. The majority of bats that test positive for rabies have been submitted in the late



Long-Eared Bat

summer and early fall. Occasionally, rabies has "spilled" over into other mammal species such as skunks and foxes.

CAN YOU TELL IF AN ANIMAL IS RABID?

No, this requires laboratory testing. Some rabid animals do act abnormally. Skunks and raccoons may have rabies if they

- are out in the day,
- seem bold or aggressive, or
- look sick, disoriented or partially paralyzed.

Report any wildlife that is behaving in strange ways to the appropriate animal control agency or the Health Department.

DON'T WORRY.

Most wild animals are not rabid. By being careful and sensible, one can avoid being exposed to rabies. Remember, rabies is preventable if a person gets treatment promptly after contact with a rabid animal. Rabies shots are no longer the series of painful shots that they once were.



Striped Skunk

If you are bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, thoroughly wash the wound with plenty of soap and water. Call your physician and report the bite to your animal control agency. Do not kill the animal unless it is wild and can-

not be captured alive. Try not to damage the head of the animal as the brain tissues are needed for examination. If your pet has had contact with a potentially rabid animal, you should contact the Health Department.

PROTECT YOURSELF.

- ▶ Vaccinate your pets including dogs, cats, ferrets and horses.
- ▶ Do not keep wild animals as pets. They make poor pets and pose a potential rabies risk to their owners.
- ▶ Do not feed, attract, touch or harass any wildlife. Raccoons especially may seem tame, but they are still wild. Rabid animals sometimes lose their natural fear of humans.
- ▶ Do not handle sick, injured or dead animals.
- ▶ Do not leave food (including pet food) out that may attract wildlife.
- ▶ Limit the possibility of exposure to wild animals by not letting your pets roam freely. Remember, no exposure means no rabies.



Gray Fox

REPORT BITES RIGHT AWAY.

If you are bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, thoroughly wash the wound with plenty of soap and water. Call your physician and report the bite to your animal control agency. Do not kill the animal unless it is wild and can-