

BE AWARE OF RABIES



WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a deadly virus that spreads to humans through the saliva of rabid animals. If untreated, the virus attacks the nervous system and can lead to death. The virus can spread from an infected animal to people and other animals.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ATTACKED?

- If contact is made and you have been bitten or scratched, wash the area with soap & water, and seek medical care immediately to determine if rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) treatment is needed.
- Most common sources for the virus include skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, and bats. In New Jersey, cats account for the vast majority of domestic animal rabies cases; but dogs and other domestic pets can also become infected.
- Contact an animal control officer or local health department for guidance and assistance.



HOW TO PREVENT RABIES?

DO'S:

- Vaccinate and keep updated on your pet's rabies vaccination.
- Avoid contact with strays or pets other than your own.
- Report unusual behavior in stray or wild animals.
- Report all animal bites immediately.

DON'TS:

- Don't get too close to unfamiliar animals, or make them angry, don't try to scare or taunt them.
- Don't try to separate animals from fighting.
- Don't bother them while they eat.



If your pet has been in contact with a potentially rabid animal, call your veterinarian immediately. Even if your pet is currently vaccinated against rabies, a rabies booster may be needed.

Report rabies incident(s) to your local health department at **908-709-7238** and reach out to Animal Control Solutions at **908-722-1271** for urgent animal control issues.

For more information visit:
www.nj.gov/health/cd/topics/rabies.shtml



