



Rabies

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes.

The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death. The early symptoms of rabies in people are similar to that of many other illnesses, including fever, headache, and general weakness or discomfort. As the disease progresses, more specific symptoms appear and may include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, slight or partial paralysis, excitation, hallucinations, agitation, hypersalivation (increase in saliva), difficulty swallowing, and hydrophobia (fear of water). Death usually occurs within days of the onset of these symptoms.

Rabies basics

When should I seek medical attention?

What are the signs and symptoms of rabies?

What care will I receive?

How is rabies transmitted?

What is the risk for my pet?

How is rabies diagnosed?

Rabies in the U.S. and around the world



U.S.



World

Resources

- [ACIP recommendations](#)
- [Publications](#)
- [News](#)
- [State and local rabies consultation contacts](#)

How can you prevent rabies?



Animals



People

Rabies information for:

Travelers

[Veterinarians](#)

[Doctors](#)

[Diagnostic Laboratories](#)

Events

- [World Rabies Day](#)
- [RABIES IN THE AMERICAS](#) 
- [NATIONAL LABORATORY TRAINING NETWORK](#) 



Rabies and Kids!

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