

Be

CAUTIOUS WHILE HIKING, CAMPING AND PLAYING OUTDOORS

RABIES CAN KILL



AVOID WILD ANIMALS

1

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. The virus is secreted in saliva and is usually transmitted to people by a bite from an infected animal.

2

In Missouri, skunks and bats are the wild animals most likely to carry rabies.

3

If bitten by any animal, wash the wound immediately with soap and water for 10 minutes.

4

Following an exposure to rabies, a person should visit a physician as soon as possible to see if a series of shots is needed to prevent onset of the disease. Once symptoms begin, the outcome is almost always death.

5

People usually know when they have been bitten by a bat. Sometimes bats don't leave an obvious bite wound.



If a person awakens and finds a bat in the room, or sees a bat in the room of an unattended child, seek medical advice and have the bat tested.

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

www.health.mo.gov/rabies

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