

# Vaccinate Your Pets



Rabies can be this  close.

## Protect Your Pets and Those You Love

1

Your pets and other domestic animals can be infected when they are bitten by rabid wild animals.

2

Visit your veterinarian with your pet on a regular basis and keep rabies vaccinations up-to-date for all cats, dogs and ferrets.

3

Maintain control of your pets by keeping cats and ferrets indoors and keeping dogs under direct supervision.

4

Spay or neuter your pets to help reduce the number of unwanted pets that may not be properly cared for or vaccinated regularly.

5

Call animal control to remove all stray animals from your neighborhood since these animals may be unvaccinated or ill.

6

There is no postexposure treatment available for animals as there is for humans.

*You are at risk for rabies because of your close contact to your pet.*



Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

[www.health.mo.gov/rabies](http://www.health.mo.gov/rabies)








# Avoid Wild Animals



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## Stay Clear of Wild Animals

-  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.
-  In Missouri, skunks and bats are the wild animals most likely to carry rabies.
-  If bitten by wild animal, wash the wound immediately with soap and water for 10 minutes.
-  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.
-  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.*

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