

## You can help stop rabies!

- ▶ Keep your pets up to date on their rabies shots.
- ▶ LOOK, don't touch, keep, feed or hold wild animals.
- ▶ Keep children and pets away from wild animals and pets you do not know.
- ▶ Do not let your pets run free.
- ▶ Keep garbage lids on tight. Do not leave pet food outside. Otherwise you may attract animals to your home.
- ▶ Keep bats out of your home (see below).
- ▶ Tell your doctor and Wake County Human Services (919-250-4462) right away if you are bitten or scratched by **any** animal. Also tell them if you wake up with a bat in your sleeping area.



## Keep bats out of your home!

Check the outside of your home for ways that bats might get in:

- ▶ All holes larger than this actual size should be filled
- ▶ Use screens on open doors and windows
- ▶ Cap chimneys
- ▶ Fill holes around wires and tubes that go into your home
- ▶ Make sure doors and windows shut tightly
- ▶ Put draft-guards under doors to attics

Most bats leave homes in fall or winter, so this is the best time to “bat-proof” your home. Some bats are protected by law. It is against the law for you to remove certain bats from their nesting areas in your home from May 1 through August 1.

# Learn about **RABIES** It could save a life!



Communicable Disease Program  
10 Sunnybrook Rd, Raleigh, NC 27610  
919-250-4462

## What is rabies?

Rabies is caused by a virus. After the virus gets into the body it attacks the brain. Rabies can kill both people and animals.

**But you can prevent it.** Learning about rabies could save a life!

## How do you get rabies?

You get rabies when an animal with rabies bites you or when saliva or other tissue from an animal with rabies gets into your eyes, nose, mouth or an open sore.

You can get shots to keep you from getting sick with rabies if you are exposed to the rabies virus. Even so, a few people in the US die of rabies each year. This is because they don't know the risk of rabies from animal bites and do not get the shots.

## What do BATS have to do with it?

- 1) Most of the people that die from rabies in the US get it from bats, even though most bats do not have rabies.
- 2) Bats that have rabies may be out during the day, may not be able to fly well and they may be found inside homes or gardens.
- 3) You can not tell if a bat has rabies by looking at it.  
**Never touch or play with a bat.**
- 4) You can be bitten by a bat and not know it. Bats have small, sharp teeth and the bite may not hurt. You may not be able to see any bite marks.



Call your doctor and Wake County Human Services if:

- You or anyone you know wakes up in a place with a bat in it
- You find a bat in a place with a young child or any person that cannot tell you what has happened
- You find a bat near your pet

**Do not touch the bat.** Close all the doors and windows and leave the room. Or you can cover it with a box and put a weight on the box so the bat can't escape. Call Animal Control (919-856-6911) to catch and test the bat for rabies.



## What about other animals?

Any animal could have rabies or other diseases. **Never touch, keep, feed or hold wild or stray animals**, even if they are cute, they seem hurt or hungry.

**Teach kids to LOOK, not touch wild animals!**

Raccoons, foxes, skunks and coyotes are the wild animals in our area that are most likely to have rabies.

## What about pets?

By law, all cats, dogs and ferrets in North Carolina must be vaccinated against rabies by 4 months of age. They need booster shots every one to three years. Call 919-212-PETS (7387)

or go to [wakegov.com/pets](http://wakegov.com/pets) for information about low cost rabies shots.



## Prevent Rabies

### Animal bites and scratches:

**If you are bitten or scratched** by any kind of animal:

- ▶ wash the wound well with lots of soap and water
- ▶ call your doctor right away
- ▶ call Wake County Human Services (919-250-4462)

You may need to get rabies or other shots.

**If your pet is bitten, scratched or in a fight** with any animal:

- ▶ wear gloves when touching your pet until you have washed your pet well with soap and water
- ▶ call your veterinarian (pet's doctor), even if your pet is up to date on his rabies shots

**Important: Be sure to get the name and phone number of the owner of any pet that bites you or your pet.**