

Staying Safe from Rabies



How rabies spreads

The rabies virus is passed to humans through the saliva of rabid animals. Exposures of concern include bites, scratches, and licks on the eyes, mouth, or open wounds from infected animals.

Prevention

All dogs and cats should be vaccinated against rabies after they are 3 months old. To keep pets safe and reduce dog bites, dogs should be tied up. Never approach or feed a wild animal, and always store trash securely.

Signs to watch for in animals

Symptoms of rabies include sudden behavioral changes such as staggering, aggression, fatigue, excessive drooling, uncoordinated movements, biting at themselves, chasing vehicles, or acting unaware of their surroundings.

What to do if you are exposed

If you are bitten or scratched by an animal, wash the wound with soap and water and call your local clinic immediately for further instructions.

Taking action

Any animal displaying symptoms should be killed immediately and submitted for rabies testing. For guidance on safe handling practices, contact OEH, ADF&G, or local authorities. Unvaccinated dogs that were exposed to a rabid animal should also be put down. Due to the nature of rabies testing, do not shoot the animal in the head.

**DON'T WAIT TO ASK FOR
HELP. RABIES IS FATAL IF
NOT TREATED IMMEDIATELY.**

Important contact information:

- Office of Environmental Health - 907-434-1659/907-434-0543
- NSHC Provider Call Line - 907-443-6411 or 844-586-8773
- Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game - 907-443-2271
- Nome Animal Control - 907-443-5697
- Nome Police Department - 907-443-5262

