

Rabies Information

Rabies is a deadly viral disease affecting the central nervous system. Rabies can be prevented but not cured. A healthy animal or human can get rabies when bitten, licked or scratched by a sick animal. The virus lives in the saliva. You can get rabies if animal saliva gets into a cut or scratch. Fortunately, by taking a few simple precautions, it is easy to prevent rabies.

Make sure your pets are up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations. Dogs, cats and ferrets are required to have a current rabies vaccination. Animals cannot be treated for exposure to rabies. Your pets should always wear their rabies vaccination and license tags.

Puppies & kittens that have not been vaccinated should not be left outdoors unsupervised. Obey leash laws and keep your pets restrained. Huntersville Code of Ordinances - [Title IX: General Regulations, Chapter 94: Animals](#).

- Report stray animals to Animal Services by calling 911.
- Teach your children to stay away from animals they do not know including wild animals. A rabid wild animal may act tame.
- If raccoons or other animals are lurking around your yard and acting sick or abnormal, telephone Animal Control.
- Avoid attracting or handling wild animals.
- Feed your pets indoors. Do not toss table scraps into your yard. Do not leave pet food outside for any length of time.
- Keep your property free of exposed garbage, pet food and bird feed. If trash must be stored outside at night, put it in sturdy tightly closed containers.
- Keep your home in good repair to prevent animals from entering through cracks and crevices. Use strong metal mesh to cover potential entryways such as chimneys, dryer vents and holes in eaves.
- If you find a bat in your home, telephone Animal Control, your physician and Health Department.
- Minimal contact with bats may result in rabies transmission.
- If you are disposing of a wild animal, wear gloves and use a shovel - avoid direct contact.
- Do not touch an injured animal - telephone Animal Control.

Stay away from animal traps and storm drains. Raccoons travel through storm drains. There is no easy test for rabies.

If you are bitten or scratched by an animal, follow these guidelines:

- Wash all wounds and contact areas thoroughly with soap and water.
- Contact your physician.
- Call 911 to report the incident. North Carolina law requires animal bites to be reported by the person bitten, the owner of the biting animal, and the physician who first treats the bite victim.
- Telephone the Health Department (704-336-6440).
- If no risk of further injury, isolate the animal until Animal Control arrives to investigate.
- If an animal attacks your pet, follow these guidelines:
 - Put on gloves before touching your pet.
 - Isolate your pet.
 - Telephone our veterinarian. Your pet may need a rabies booster shot immediately.
 - Telephone Animal Control.