

RABIES. The facts.

THE DISEASE

- Rabies is a virus that attacks the **central nervous system** of mammals – including **humans**.
- Animals that have rabies will **die**; the condition is **incurable**.
- Rabies is also **fatal to humans**. In fact, there have been some **rabies-related deaths** in **Canada** since 2000.
- It is typically **transferred by saliva** in a **bite** from an infected animal – or through contact with moist tissues of the mouth, nose or eyes.
- Common carriers of the disease include **skunks, foxes, bats** and **raccoons**.
- Rabies typically presents itself in one of two ways:

Dumb Rabies

- Domestic animals may hide and become depressed.
- Wild animals seem unusually friendly and readily approach humans.
- Domestic or wild animals may have paralysis.

Furious Rabies

- Animals appear very aggressive or excited.
- Animals may bite or attack other animals or objects.

HOW TO PREVENT IT

The consequences of rabies are extremely severe. Fortunately, it's a disease that is **100% preventable**. Here are some simple tips to guide you:

- **An annual checkup** allows your veterinarian to ensure, among other things, your pet's vaccinations are current – including protection against rabies.
- **Vaccinating** your pet is important to keep them from getting rabies – and it **protects you and your family** in the event that your pet is bitten by a rabid animal.
- **Don't let your pets roam**. Keep them under your direct supervision to **minimize** the risk of them coming in **contact with wild animals**.
- If your pet is **bitten**, seek veterinary assistance **immediately**.
- If you notice an animal **behaving abnormally**, call your local health unit or **animal control agency**.
- If you or a family member is **bitten** by any suspicious animal (wild or domestic), **wash** the wound thoroughly with soap and water, remove any clothing that may have been contaminated, and seek **medical attention** as quickly as possible.

THE STATS

3,243

Number of rabies-positive animals in Canada since 2000

1,500+

Number of Canadians treated annually for exposure to rabies

900+

Number of Canadians potentially exposed to rabies from dogs and cats versus other animals!

