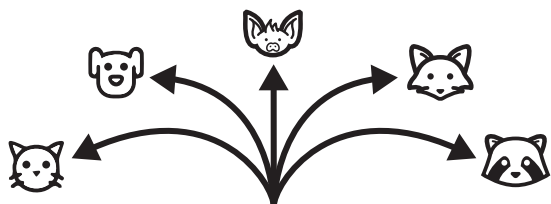


RABIES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

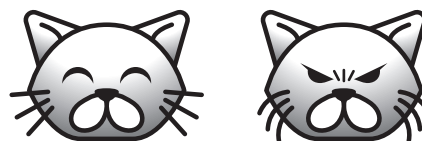


NEVER TOUCH or feed wild or stray animals.



HOW IS RABIES SPREAD?

Rabies is most commonly transmitted through bites or scratches from an infected animal. The virus is present in the saliva.



WHAT DO RABID ANIMALS LOOK LIKE?

An animal that is sick with rabies may be healthy looking. They can either act unusually friendly or aggressive.



MOST COMMON ANIMALS WITH RABIES?

Raccoons, bats, foxes, and unvaccinated cats have been reported most frequently for having rabies in Florida. Cats are reported more frequently than dogs.

WHAT IF AN ANIMAL BITES OR SCRATCHES ME?

- Scrub the wound with soap and water.
- Get a description of the animal.
- Go to your health care provider.
- Contact your county health department or animal control agency with the animal's description.

HOW DO I PROTECT AGAINST RABIES?

- **Immunize** your pets based on your veterinarian's recommended schedule.
- **Avoid contact** with wild or stray animals.
- **Never feed** wild or stray animals.
- If your pet is attacked by a wild or unvaccinated animal, wash your pet with soap, keep them away from others, contact animal control or county health department, and call your pet's veterinarian office.
- Rabies prophylaxis can prevent rabies but must be given before symptoms begin.

What if I am
exposed to rabies?

Call **772-462-3883**
to speak with a DOH
Epidemiology Nurse.



For more information, visit
FloridaHealth.gov/Rabies

