

Useful Numbers

Human Exposures

Chatham Health District:
860-365-0884

CT Dept. of Public Health:
860-509-7994 (*After hours & weekends, call 860-509-8000*)

Domestic Animal Exposures

Portland Animal Control:
860-342-6789

CT Department of Agriculture
Animal Control Division:
860-713-2506
State Veterinarian: 860-713-2505

Wildlife Control/Behavior/ Rabies (general info)

CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection Wildlife Division: 860-424-3011

Email - deep.wildlife@ct.gov

DEEP Emergency Dispatch:
860-424-3333

Rabies Testing

Dept. of Public Health, CT Virology Lab, Rocky Hill: 860-920-6500
(*Animals that have exposed humans*)

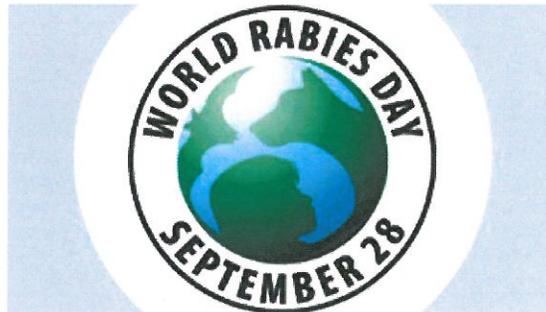
UCONN Animal Diagnostic Lab:
860-486-3738
(*Animals that have exposed pets/livestock or sick animals with no known exposure history*)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) www.cdc.gov/rabies

September 28 is World Rabies Day, a global health observance that seeks to raise awareness about rabies and enhance prevention and control efforts. First co-sponsored by CDC and the Alliance for Rabies Control (ARC) in 2007, World Rabies Day has been celebrated in countries throughout the world, including the U.S.

World Rabies Day is an excellent time to take steps that can help prevent and control rabies, such as vaccinating pets including dogs and cats and providing education on how to avoid the animals that typically transmit rabies: raccoons, bats, skunks, and foxes.



Portland Animal Control

P.O. Box 71
Portland, Connecticut 06480-0071

Phone: 860-342-6789
Fax: 860-342-6714
E-mail: ACO@portlandct.org



Tel: 860-342-6789

Portland Animal Control

About Rabies





About Rabies: Facts and Preventative Measures

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. In the United States, rabies is usually found in raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, woodchucks, and bats. Domestic animals can get rabies by coming into contact with rabid wild animals.

Symptoms

The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death. The early symptoms of rabies in people are similar to that of many other illnesses, including fever, headache, and general weakness or discomfort. As the disease progresses, more specific symptoms appear and may include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, slight or partial paralysis, excitation, hallucinations, agitation, hypersalivation (increase in saliva), difficulty swallowing, and hydrophobia (fear of water). Death usually occurs within days of the onset of these symptoms.

Transmission

People are usually infected following a deep bite or scratch by an infected animal. Transmission can also occur when infectious material – usually saliva – comes into direct contact with human mucosa or fresh skin wounds.

- 40% of the victims are children younger than age 15.
- 99% of human cases are caused by dog bites.

Detection

You cannot tell if an animal has rabies by looking at them. A rabid animal can appear healthy or even tame. The only way to tell if an animal has rabies is by testing it in a laboratory.

The following symptoms *may* indicate the presence of rabies, distemper, or other disease in mammals:

- Unprovoked aggression
- Impaired movement, difficulty walking
- Unusual vocalizations

If you have been bitten or scratched:

- Wash the wound right away with soap and water for 15 minutes
- Call your doctor and follow their instructions or seek emergency medical treatment
- Get a description of the animal
- Call local animal control for assistance (860-342-6789)

Treatment for Humans

Treatment for rabies exposure is highly effective if administered promptly and consists of a series of six relatively painless injections.



Keep them safe, inoculate!

Rabies Prevention Measures

There are several things you can do to protect your pet from rabies:

1. Visit your veterinarian with your pet on a regular basis and keep rabies vaccinations up-to-date for all cats, ferrets, and dogs.
2. Maintain control of your pets by keeping cats and ferrets indoors and keeping dogs under direct supervision.
3. Spay or neuter your pets to help reduce the number of unwanted pets that may not be properly cared for or vaccinated regularly.
4. Do not feed or handle stray animals
5. Do not keep wild animals as pets
6. Do not touch or pick up dead animals
7. Keep garbage cans covered to avoid attracting animals
8. Leave bats alone

If your pet is exposed to a suspected rabid animal, wear gloves when handling it or treating its wounds. Contact a veterinarian for advice. Your local police, animal control officer, or NWCO can help identify, capture, or destroy the suspect animal for testing. If you are unable to contact local authorities, call the DEEP at 860-424-3333 for guidance.