Rabies Information

What is Rabies?

Rabies is a disease transmitted from animals to humans or from humans to animals that is typically found in skunks, raccoons, bats, coyotes, and foxes. However, other animals and humans can become infected if they are bitten by an infected animal. If someone encounters any of the “high-risk” animals exhibiting strange behavior such as aggressiveness, restlessness, motor skill impairment, or anything else unusual, stay away and report the animal to Animal Services at (972) 225-2225.

Pets

The City Ordinance mandates that all dogs and cats be regularly vaccinated against rabies. An in-date rabies tag must be affixed to the pet’s collar or harness. Lack of vaccination proof could result in a citation. Call your veterinarian if you have questions about your pet’s vaccination status.

Any animal bitten or scratched by a wild carnivorous mammal or a bat that is not available for testing should be regarded as having been exposed to rabies. Un-vaccinated animals exposed to a rabid animal should be euthanized humanely. The owner of such animal may, at the owner's expense and in a manner prescribed by the local animal services authority, confine said animal. Such animal must be vaccinated immediately following exposure and quarantined in strict isolation for no less than six months. A re-vaccination shall be done one month prior to release from quarantine. Animals that are currently vaccinated must be re-vaccinated immediately, confined, and kept under observation for a period no less than 90 days.

What to Do if You Are Bitten

- Notify Animal Services at (972) 225-2225 immediately, or as soon as possible.

- Wash the wound with lots of soap and running water.

- Go to a physician or emergency room immediately if the bite is severe or bleeding.

- In any case, notify your physician that an animal bit you.

- Make sure that you are up to date on your tetanus vaccination.
• Take antibiotics if your physician prescribes them.

• If possible and without causing further injury, try to identify or capture the biting animal.