

Understanding Rabies



What You Should Know

WSPA

World Society for the Protection of Animals



What is Rabies

- ❖ Rabies is an acute and deadly viral infection of the central nervous system.
- ❖ It is one of the most terrifying diseases known to man.
- ❖ Rabies is caused by a virus in the saliva of infected rabid animals, and it is usually transmitted by bites from infected animals. All warm-blooded animals can get rabies
- ❖ The rabies virus can infect any mammal, but infection is most common among dogs, cats, cows, horses, bats, mongooses, jackals and monkeys.
- ❖ Vaccination of pets and livestock is the most effective control measure to prevent the disease in these animals and subsequent human exposure.
- ❖ Most people get rabies from being bitten by a rabid animal. Rarely, if a person has broken skin, like a scratch which comes in contact with animal saliva that is full of the rabies virus, that person may get infected.
- ❖ But rabies also can be spread in the air, as has occurred caves where infected bats live.



What should I Do If I Think I've Been In Contact With Rabies?

If you have been bitten or scratched by an animal, you should:

- ❖ Wash/Clean the wound immediately and thoroughly with liberal amounts of soap and running water to remove saliva from the area.
- ❖ If soap is not available you can use water alone, but be sure to wash with soap and water as soon as possible.
- ❖ If the wound is not bleeding profusely, allow the wound to bleed, as this will help to clean it. If it is bleeding profusely apply pressure with fingers or hands, or apply a pressure bandage.
- ❖ The wound should not be sutured, as this is thought to increase the risk of the virus entering nerves.
- ❖ Once the wound has been thoroughly cleansed, apply locally, 70% alcohol or any other antiseptic



povidone - iodine (Betadine or Wokadine) 1% lotion, or tincture of iodine.

- ❖ In an emergency any alcoholic liquor of 86 proof or higher may be used.

Do not apply Chili powder, turmeric powder, oil or any other home remedy to the wound.

Seek Medical care Immediately

Contact a health care professional doctor right away.

All animal bites should promptly be evaluated by a health professional to determine if treatment is necessary.

Treatment

Is Rabies Curable ?

- ❖ There is no cure once the signs of rabies appear. It is then inevitably fatal. However, the relatively long incubation period allows post-exposure therapy to be effective if done correctly.
- ❖ Exposure to a rabid animal does not always result in rabies.
- ❖ If proper post exposure treatment is obtained promptly following an exposure of bite from suspected rabid dog, most cases of rabies will be prevented.



What Are The Signs and Symptoms of Rabies in Animals ?

Furious Rabies

Symptoms of rabies in animals may include any one or more of the following signs :

- ❖ Excitability
- ❖ Vicious behavior or attacks
- ❖ Biting
- ❖ Agitation
- ❖ Restlessness
- ❖ Changes in the tone of the dog's bark
- ❖ Uncharacteristic aggression



- ❖ Fearlessness
- ❖ Excessive salivation, so-called frothing at the mouth
- ❖ Aversion to water
- ❖ Inability to swallow or drink (the animal may appear to be choking on a foreign object. This is a dangerous trap for humans. who, in trying to help the animal, may expose themselves to infection without knowing it)
- ❖ Dilated pupils
- ❖ Muscular dysfunction
- ❖ Coordination or gait irregularities
- ❖ Convulsions
- ❖ Paralysis

And eventually death, almost always within 10 days.

What Are The Signs and Symptoms of Rabies in Animals ?

Dumb Rabies

Some rabid animals do not exhibit typical rabid Symptoms. The is generally referred to as Dumb Rabies. These animals may display other symptoms of general illness which may include :

- ❖ An avoidance of contact with humans or other animals
- ❖ Lethargy
- ❖ Loss of appetite



And eventually death.

Other Signs and Symptoms of Rabies :

Some dogs may just howl for days and retreat into dark corners. Their hind legs may give way. A dog may show very mild symptoms of anorexia (not eating) and listlessness only. and is found dead in three or four days. Sometimes the dog shows no signs at all, yet is suddenly found dead, and a post-mortem examination reveals rabies.

Are These Symptoms Characteristic of Rabies Only ?

Unfortunately the answer is 'No'

- ❖ Extreme pain, fear or confusion can make and animal aggressive.
- ❖ Profuse salivation and the inability to swallow

may result from an obstruction in the throat, foreign bodies in the teeth, or the ingestion of irritating or toxic substances.

- ❖ Howling could be due to hunger, fear or pain.
- ❖ Tetanus infections may sometimes be misdiagnosed as rabies
- ❖ But, in any case, such animals should also be approached with caution as in their pain they may attack.

Are Street Dogs or Stray Dogs More Likely to be Rabid ?

- ❖ Any dog, pet or otherwise, not vaccinated with the rabies vaccine is at risk of contracting rabies.
- ❖ Humane population control methods involving sterilization and release programs, which include rabies vaccination can do much to reduce the risk, by making the stray Dog population stable, safe and controlled.
- ❖ These methods form an essential part of the overall rabies control Program.

What should I Do if I See a Possible Rabid Stray Dog ?

In the Case of stray dogs :

- ❖ Do not approach or provoke the animal.
- ❖ Do not throw sticks or stones at it.
- ❖ Disperse gathering crowds to reduce stress on the dog and reduce risks.
- ❖ Call the appropriate authority : the local animal control agency, police department, animal welfare organization, veterinary service, or public health authority.
- ❖ Try to maintain visual contact of the dog until the responsible authority arrives, but do not put yourself in jeopardy by doing this.



How Can I Help In the Control of Rabies ?

- ❖ Keep Vaccinations up to date for your own pets. This requirement is important not only to keep your pets from getting rabies, but also to provide a barrier of protection to you, in case your animal is bitten by a rabid animal.
- ❖ Vaccination of the stray dogs and cats in and around your area is the best method for controlling rabies.
- ❖ Keep your pets under supervision with their movements restricted.

How Can I Help in the Control of Rabies ?

- ❖ Do not let them wander the streets unsupervised.
- ❖ Do not let them come into contact with unfamiliar unvaccinated animals.
- ❖ Spay or neuter your pets to help reduce the number of unwanted pets that may not be cared for or regularly vaccinated
- ❖ Ask government authorities to institute mandatory registration of all pet dogs, along with active vaccination and sterilization campaigns for pets and stray dogs.
- ❖ If you see any animal acting strangely, notify the local health or animal control authorities. Do not try to catch the animal yourself. However, "barking a lot" "looking odd." " sniffing other dogs," or "looking threatening" should not necessarily be interpreted as strange or unusual behavior.



Friends Don't Let Friends Have Litters



Spay or Neuter Your Pets

In Conclusion :

The best protection against rabies is for people to vaccinate their pets and any stray dogs living near their homes, and for city authorities to conduct mass vaccination and sterilization campaigns for stray dogs plus implement stringent pet registration requirements.

A Healthy Pet is a Vaccinated Pet



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PET RESPECT PROGRAMME

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Caring for your Cat

आपकी बिल्ली की देखभाल



Cats were domesticated some 6,000 years after dogs, yet today there are nearly as many pet cats in the world as pet dogs. In many countries they were considered sacred and worshipped. Although generally considered more independent than dogs, cats still need care and attention

बिल्लियों को कुत्तों से कुछ 6,000 वर्षों बाद पालतू बनाया गया। आजतक दुनिया में लगभग उतनी ही पालतू बिल्लियाँ हैं जितने कि पालतू कुत्ते। बहुत सारे देशों में उनको धार्मिक माना जाता है और पूजा की जाती है। यद्यपि सामान्य रूप से उन्हें कुत्तों से ज्यादा स्वतंत्र माना जाता है, फिर भी बिल्लियों को देखभाल की और ध्यान रखने की आवश्यकता होती है



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Caring For Your Dog

आपके कुत्ते की देखभाल



People and dogs have lived together for over 10,000 years. Dogs are kept for companionship, guarding, herding, also as assistance dogs for people with sight hearing or physical difficulties.

लगभग 10,000 वर्ष पहले से मनुष्य और कुत्ते साथ-साथ रहते हैं। कुत्तों को साथी के रूप में, चौकीदारी के लिये, जानवरों के समूह की देखभाल करने के लिये और व्यक्ति जिन्हें देखने सुनने या शारीरिक परेशानियाँ हैं, उनकी सहायता करने के लिये पाला जाता है।

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