

# RABIES ALERT

**DO NOT TOUCH  
OR FEED**

**WILD OR STRAY ANIMALS**



If you are able to get close to a wild animal, it is probably sick.

**SICK ANIMALS MAY BITE!!!**

You can't tell if an animal has rabies by looking at it. Some animals may act mad; some may move slowly and show no fear of humans. **NEVER** try to get close to a wild or stray animal. Get help, go **TELL AN ADULT.**



The rabies virus is carried in the saliva of an infected animal. Any mammal, including cats, dogs, and humans, can be infected with the deadly rabies virus if they are bitten or scratched by an animal that is sick with rabies.

**Prevent rabies. Vaccinate your pets.**

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**QUESTIONS** about rabies in **animals**? Call [Environmental Health at 445-6215](tel:445-6215) (toll free 1-800-963-9241)  
**QUESTIONS** about rabies in **humans**? Call [Public Health Nursing at 268-2182](tel:268-2182) (toll free 1-866-597-1574)

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. The County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in services, programs, activities, or employment. Persons with c requiring special assistance or accommodation may contact the Director of Environmental Health at (707) 445-6215.

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**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

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**RABIES ALERT**  
**SEPTEMBER 2009**

Rabies is always present in wildlife. This year Humboldt County is experiencing a dramatic increase in the number of wild animals with rabies, and all residents need to know how to protect themselves from exposure to this deadly virus. It should be noted that wild animals with rabies may show no fear of people and may even seem friendly.

**Call your local law enforcement to report sick or aggressive animals. Know whether city or county has jurisdiction and have their phone number handy. Only law enforcement can deal with animal threats.**

Bring pet foods indoors at night to keep skunks, raccoons, opossums, and foxes from becoming uninvited visitors to your home or yard. Do not feed wild animals.

Instruct children to enjoy wildlife from a distance and avoid contact with wild or stray animals. Do not attempt to feed, approach, or touch wild animals. If a wild animal is acting abnormally, report it to local law enforcement. Do not touch bats on the ground, and warn children not to touch them. Rabid bats fall to the ground where they're easily accessible to children and pets.

Bat proof all building and accessory structures.

Do not attempt to rescue injured animals. Report to Humboldt Wildlife Care Center 822-8839.

Keep vaccinations current for domestic cats and dogs and keep records.

### **DID A BITE OR SCRATCH OCCUR?**

If a bite or scratch occurs with a wild animal, immediately wash the affected skin area with soap and water; SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION for evaluation of rabies risk. Report the event to Environmental Health at 445-6215 (toll free 1-800-963-9241).

If you or your child is bitten or scratched by a dog or cat, get information about the animal. Who owns the animal? How can they be reached? If the animal is a stray, notify law enforcement as soon as possible so the bite can be investigated.

If your pet or livestock has contact with a wild animal, call Environmental Health at 445-6215 (toll free 1-800-963-9241) for evaluation of rabies risk.