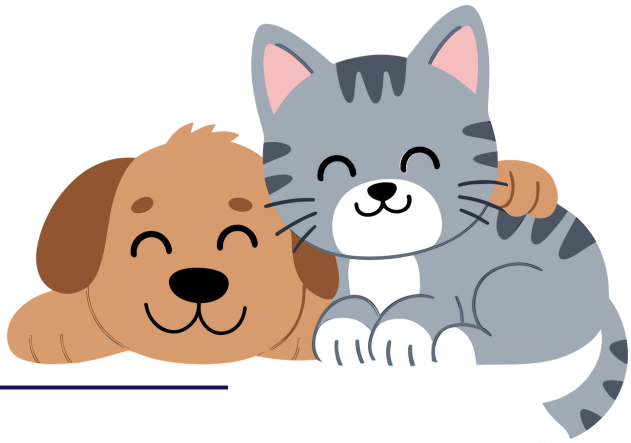
PICKAWAY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH
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RABIES FAQ



IS RABIES A SERIOUS DISEASE?

Yes. Nearly 100% of people who contract the disease will die. The last human rabies case in Ohio was in 1970 Vaccinating your pets, reporting bites or scratches and preventing your pet from coming in contact with wild animals are the best ways to prevent the spread of rabies..

I WAS BITTEN BY AN ANIMAL. WHAT DO I DO?

First, seek medical treatment, if needed. Anytime a non-human mammal bites or otherwise potentially exposes a person to the rabies virus within the jurisdiction of the Health District, a report of such bite must be made to the Health Department. This report is required by the Ohio Administrative Code and Rabies Control Regulations of the Health Department. If you seek treatment, that facility will file a report with the Health Department.

HOW DID THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FIND OUT I WAS BITTEN OR THAT MY PET BIT SOMEONE?

Ohio Administrative Code and Rabies Control Regulations of the Health District specifically require any physician, veterinarian, treatment facility or any other person with knowledge of an animal bite or exposure report it to the Health Department.
You can also self report a bite using our form located at pickawaycountypublichealth.org or scan this QR code.

MY DOG, CAT, OR FERRET JUST BIT SOMEONE, DO I HAVE TO EUTHANIZE MY ANIMAL?

No. Most dogs, cats and ferrets, can be quarantined rather than euthanized. However, if the animal cannot be quarantined euthanasia may be necessary.

MY DOG OR PET JUST BIT SOMEONE, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY PET?

If your pet is a dog, cat or ferret it will be quarantined under an order by the Health Department. This quarantine will require your animal to be isolated at your residence for a minimum of 10 days. At the end of the quarantine your animal will be required to be seen by a veterinarian for a health check, and if applicable, receive a rabies vaccine.

MY PET WAS BITTEN BY A WILD ANIMAL. WHAT DO I DO?

Take the pet to the vet for treatment and a rabies booster. Report the bite to the Health Department. If you do not have the wild animal, proper quarantine of your pet will be required to ensure your pet does not infect you or your family.

I WAS BITTEN BY A WILD ANIMAL. WHAT DO I DO?

Seek medical treatment immediately. Contact the Health Department after you have received treatment. If the animal can be captured, it can be tested by euthanizing the animal and testing the brain. If the animal cannot be tested, lifesaving post exposure prophylaxis will likely be recommended.

WILD ANIMAL PREPARATION

If you safely capture or kill the wild animal do so without damaging the head (this will be needed for testing).

If you require assistance with capturing, killing, and/or preparing the wild animal for testing please contact a licensed Commercial Nuisance Wild Animal Control Operator. A list can be found on the Ohio Department of Natural Resources website.

After the wild animal has been prepared for testing, please contact the Health Department for next steps.

I FOUND A BAT IN MY HOUSE. WHAT DO I DO?

If you can, safely capture the bat then call the Health Department. **A bat should only be captured if there has been direct physical contact or if someone woke up in the same room as the bat.** If you cannot safely capture the bat, post exposure prophylaxis will likely be recommended as 3-5% of bats are known to carry the rabies virus.

It is important to note that bat bites can be so small they can go undetected, therefore a person asleep, impaired, developmentally disabled or a child may not know they were bitten. If a bat is found in the same room with one of these individuals it is considered an exposure. **Do NOT try to capture a bat if you simply see it nearby**. Capturing a bat based solely on sighting could increase the risk of physical contact and potential rabies exposure.



SCAN HERE for directions on how to safely capture a bat

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Pickaway County Public Health monitors all reports of animal bites or exposures and either quarantines or ensures euthanasia and testing when applicable. Based on these two measures the Health Department can recommend lifesaving post exposure prophylaxis when necessary.

Any additional questions can be directed to an Environmental Health Staff Member at 740-477-9667 ext. 370 or email contact@pickawaycountypublichealth.gov.