

I Was Involved in a Bite/Scratch

*I was just 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 Delaware General Health District. This report is required by the Ohio Administrative Code and Rabies Control Regulations of the Health District. If you seek treatment, that facility will file a report with the Health District. If you would like to verify this, you may call the report in or submit it in writing utilizing the animal bite/exposure report form found at DelawareHealth.org.

How did the Health District 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 District.

My Animal Was Just Involved in a Bite/Scratch

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 District. 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, and if applicable, receive a rabies vaccine.

Wild Animals

My pet was bitten by a wild animal. What do I do?

If you can safely capture or kill the wild animal do so without damaging the head (this will be needed for testing). If you have the wild animal, arrangements will be made to test the wild animal for the rabies virus. 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. Contact the Health District for more information.

*I was bitten by a wild animal.
What do I do?*

Seek medical treatment immediately. Contact the Health District 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.

Can I own a wild, exotic or feral animal (besides a cat or ferret)?

No. According to the Rabies Control Regulations of the Health District no person is permitted to harbor, feed, import, market, perform surgery or other techniques for the purpose of domesticating it, or immunize any wild, exotic or feral animal.

What is Rabies

Is rabies a serious disease?

Yes. Nearly 100% of people who contract the disease will die. Thanks to Health District intervention and medical treatment, the last human rabies case in Ohio was in 1970.

If rabies is so serious, how do I make sure I don't contract it?

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.

What is the Health District doing to protect me from rabies?

The Health District 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 District can recommend the lifesaving post exposure prophylaxis when necessary.

Who can I contact for more information?

A member of our Residential Services Unit would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Please call (740) 368-1700 and ask to speak with a Sanitarian in that Unit.

Bats and Rabies

I found a bat in my house, what do I do?

If you can, safely capture the bat then call the Health District. See the rabies and animal bites webpage at DelawareHealth.org for a safe way to capture a bat. If the bat can be safely captured it can be euthanized and tested for rabies. 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, mentally handicapped 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.

For more information contact the
Delaware General Health District
P.O. Box 570
1-3 W. Winter Street
Delaware, OH 43015
(740) 368-1700
Or visit our website
www.delawarehealth.org



Revised April 2015

Rabies



Frequently Asked Questions



**Delaware General
Health District**

Dedicated to your health