

RABIES ALERT!



✓ RABIES is found in the saliva of infected warm blooded animals. The most common wild carriers are the raccoon, skunk, fox and bat. Cats are the most common domestic animal to be infected with rabies.

- ✓ Never touch a wild animal, even if it is dead or injured.
- ✓ Leave wildlife alone. Do not make pets of wild animals or try to “save” baby animals even if they seem abandoned.
- ✓ Do not feed or pet stray animals.
- ✓ Pets can get rabies so have your dogs and cats vaccinated. Free walk-in Rabies Clinics for cats and dogs are offered in November at the Community Service Building on Route 33.
- ✓ All dogs & cats six months of age or older must be must be licensed every January. Proof of rabies vaccination is required. Fees are lower for spayed or neutered animals. Licenses can be obtained at the Health Department during regular office hours, or by mail.
- ✓ If you are bitten by an animal immediately wash the bite thoroughly with soap and water. Call your doctor or go to the nearest emergency room immediately.
- ✓ PROTECT YOURSELF! Because rabies is a fatal disease once symptoms appear, report all animal-to-animal and animal-to-human bites to the Health Department at 446-8345 during regular business hours or the Police Department at 446-4300 during evening hours or the weekend.



If You Encounter a Bat in Your House ...



Contrary to popular belief, less than one percent of bats carry rabies and attacks by bats are extremely rare. HOWEVER, bat bites may be less severe, heal rapidly and may be more difficult to find or recognize than bites from larger animals.

Rabies post-exposure treatment should be considered when physical contact (bites, scratches or mucus membrane contact) with a bat cannot be excluded OR the bat could not be captured or tested for rabies.

To date, the bats that have been captured and tested in Manalapan have been negative for rabies. If you suspect that a family member may have had ANY CONTACT with a bat found in your house, it is important to capture the bat for testing. When the bat lands, cover it with a coffee can or other suitable container. While wearing heavy protective gloves, slide the container lid or a piece of cardboard under the container to trap the bat inside. Tape the lid or cardboard to the container securely, and punch small holes in the top to allow the bat to breathe. Contact the Health Department to arrange for rabies testing.

If you see a bat in your home and you are sure that NO human or animal exposure has occurred, try to confine the bat in one room, turn on the lights, and open the windows. Because bats are able to detect air currents, they will usually leave the house at their normal time of activity in the early evening.



MANALAPAN HEALTH DEPARTMENT