

RABIES TIPS

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Epi-Hotline 1-877-427-7317

2017

When You Should Seek Medical Attention!

What You Need to Know

- The rabies virus is transmitted through saliva and/or brain and nervous system tissue. You can only get rabies by coming into contact with these specific bodily excretions and tissues.
- It is important to know that rabies exposure is a medical urgency, but not an emergency.
- Wash any wounds immediately. One of the most effective ways to decrease the chance for infection is to wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water.
- See your healthcare provider for any trauma due to an animal attack before considering the need for rabies vaccination.

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Rabies in Bats

- Bats are the primary cause of rabies in people in the United States. Not all bats have rabies but precautions should be taken.
- If you wake up in a room with a bat present, even if you don't see a bite or scratch, seek medical attention. If at all possible try to carefully trap the bat so that it can be tested. Do not release the bat.
- If you find a bat in your home you need to figure out how it got inside. Bats can enter a home through an opening as small as 1/2 inch. It is recommended that you contact a professional who has experience with excluding bats. (*For bat exclusion guidelines you can go to Bat Conservation International's website for more information*).
- The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism Nuisance Wildlife Damage Control (NWDC) program is designed to assist you in getting help with wildlife control. You can go to their website for more information.

NWDC Program

Is designed to help people find someone who can assist them with wildlife control.

A list of NWDC permit holders is available through the KDWPT website.