

PREVENTION WEDNESDAY

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City of Baltimore

Health Department

Rabies

Did You Know?



Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system



Rabies is spread to humans through the bite of an infected animal



State and local laws require dogs, cats and ferrets four months of age and older to be vaccinated against rabies



Baltimore City has found 22 positive rabies cases in wildlife this year; 9 bats, 12 raccoons, and 1 fox

Prevention Tips:

Tip 1

Vaccinate your dogs, cats and ferrets regularly

Tip 2

Do not handle wild animals
It's not normal for a wild animal to be friendly with people.

Tip 3

Do not let pets roam free
Keep your pets inside and supervise them when outside. This will help keep your pets from coming in contact with wild animals.

Tip 4

Keep bats out of your home
Seal any openings such as chimneys, basements, porch holes, and dryer vents. Use window screens and make sure they are intact.

Tip 5

If bitten:
a) Immediately wash the wounds with soap and water;
b) See a medical professional; and
c) Report the animal bite to the Health Department by calling 311.

Indicators and signs that may indicate an animal is rabid:

1. Raccoons are not typically active during the day
2. Bats that are seen during the day or that cannot fly
3. An animal is either unnaturally approachable or withdrawn, as well as overly excited, irritable, or aggressive
4. Convulsions or frothing at the mouth

Resources and References

- Centers for Disease Control
<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/history.html>
- Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
http://www.edcp.org/pdf_factsheets/rabies.pdf
- The Humane Society of the United States
<http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/facts/rabies.html>
- World Rabies Day
<http://www.worldrabiesday.org/>