

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED...

The cost to quarantine an unvaccinated pet that has been exposed to rabies can quickly exceed \$2,000. Compare this to the cost of a routine vaccination!



## WHAT IF MY PET HAS BITTEN SOMEONE?

Report the bite to your local animal control office. Your pet will be placed on an observation period during which you should monitor and report any illness or unusual behavior by your pet.

## RABIES IN COLORADO

Rabies is becoming more common in wildlife along the Front Range, putting humans and animals at risk for this deadly disease. In Colorado, most rabies is found in skunks and bats. Raccoons, foxes, and coyotes are carriers of rabies, too.

Bats should never be handled. If your pet catches a bat, or one is found indoors with your companion animal, contact your local animal control office. If you are bitten or scratched by a bat, contact the health department right away.

Skunks are attracted to food and ground-level shelter such as home foundations and raised porches. Preventing access can eliminate the problem and the rabies risk.

Never feed wildlife or attempt to scare them away with your bare hands.



*The mission of the Humane Society of Boulder Valley is to protect and enhance the lives of companion animals by promoting healthy relationships between pets and people.*

### **VETERINARY CLINIC**

2323 55th St, Boulder CO 80301

303-442-4030 opt 2

[boulderhumane.org/clinic](http://boulderhumane.org/clinic)

### **LEARN MORE ABOUT RABIES**

Colorado Department of  
Public Health and Environment

[colorado.gov/cdph](http://colorado.gov/cdph)

Boulder County Public Health

[bouldercountyhealth.org](http://bouldercountyhealth.org)

# Rabies

Protecting You and Your Pets



## WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. It is usually transmitted to people and animals by a bite from an infected animal that has rabies in its saliva.

All mammals, including humans, can contract rabies. Most cases in the US are found in wildlife such as bats, skunks, raccoons, foxes, and coyotes.

Once clinical signs of rabies appear, the disease is nearly always fatal.

## VACCINES PROTECT YOUR PET

### RABIES CAN BE PREVENTED!

Vaccination is the most effective way to control the spread of rabies. Boulder County law requires dogs and cats over three months of age to have current vaccinations against rabies. Vaccinations must be repeated throughout the animal's life.

## DID YOU KNOW?

One overdue vaccination may put your pet in the same quarantine category as an unvaccinated pet.



## CAN PEOPLE GET RABIES?

Yes. Humans can contract the rabies virus if exposed to an infected animal. People in high-risk professions, such as wildlife rehabilitators, veterinarians, and animal control officers can receive pre-exposure vaccinations. The disease is preventable through prompt, appropriate medical care.

Dogs are still a significant source of rabies in other countries, so people should be aware of this risk when traveling outside of the U.S.

If you are bitten, don't panic. Contact your physician and the health department immediately to report the bite. You may need a series of vaccines to protect against rabies.

If possible, **and safe to do so**, confine the animal. Do not release or dispose of a wild animal. Contact your local animal control office for immediate assistance.

Unlike humans, animals cannot be treated with preventative injections after they are exposed.

## WHAT IF MY PET IS BITTEN?

Even if your pet has a current vaccination, you should report the bite immediately to animal control. Have your pet re-vaccinated against rabies at your veterinarian. Pets with expired vaccinations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Pets that have never been vaccinated against rabies and are exposed to a rabid animal must either be euthanized or placed on strict quarantine for six months.

