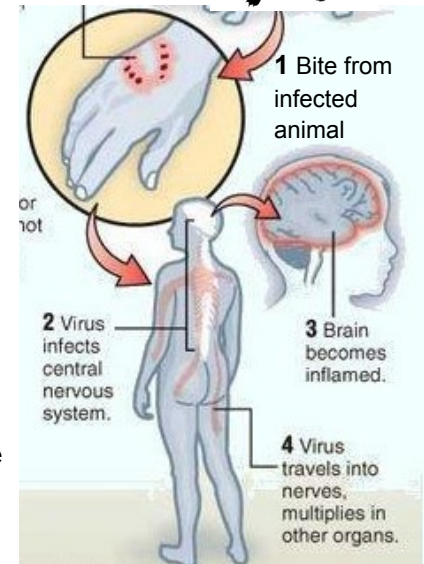


“*Rabies*” in Cattaraugus County!

What is “Rabies”?

- Deadly disease caused by a virus.
- Attacks the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord).
- Transmitted by bites from infected animals such as dogs, bats, raccoons, skunks, cats, etc.



What animals get “Rabies”?

- Wild animals: bats, raccoons, skunks and foxes. **In the US: bats** are the most common source of rabies.
- Domestic pets/farm animals: Any that are not vaccinated can be infected. **In NYS: cats** are most commonly infected with rabies!

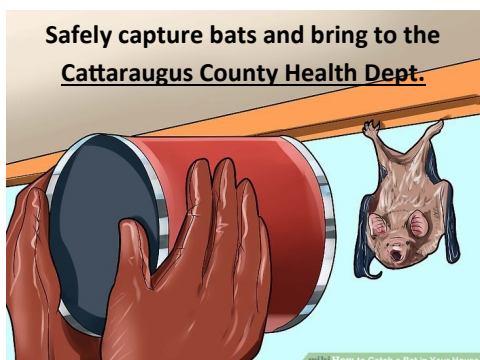
What are some of the signs and symptoms of Rabies?

Animals

- Change in behavior—extremely aggressive or tame
- Lose fear of people and natural enemies
- Staggering
- Convulsions
- Choking
- Frothing at mouth
- Paralysis
- Make unusual sounds
- Usually die within one week after showing signs

Humans

- Discomfort, pricking, itching at bite site
- General weakness or discomfort
- Fever or headaches
- Difficulty swallowing (‘fear of water’)
- Excessive salivation
- Anxiety, confusion, agitation
- Delirium, hallucinations, inability to sleep
- Usually die within ten days of clinical symptoms



Safely capture bats and bring to the **Cattaraugus County Health Dept.**

What should I do if I am exposed to Rabies?

- Wash wounds with soap and water and get trained medical help!
- Report animal bites to the Cattaraugus County Health Department at (716) -701-3386.
- Provide information when possible to help the Health Department capture the animal for observation and/or rabies testing.
- **Bats:** Try to [safely capture the bat\(s\)](#) and take the bat(s) to the Cattaraugus County Health Department for testing.
- *If the animal cannot be observed/tested for rabies, you may need treatment.* The Cattaraugus County Health Department will provide treatment at no cost.

Rabies Fact Sheet (contd.)

Can I spread it?

- **NO!**
- A person has to be bitten by an infected animal to get the disease.

What happens if I don't get treated?

- If a person is infected and do not get treatment in time, it can result in death!

How do I protect my pets from Rabies?

- * Vaccinate and keep shots up-to-date.
- * If your pet is vaccinated and bitten by a rabid animal, a vaccine booster may be needed within five days of incident.

How can I protect myself against Rabies?

DO....

- Be sure your animals are up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations.
- Keep family pets indoors at night and feed them indoors
- Tightly cap or put away garbage cans. Board up any openings to your attic, basement, porch or garage. Cap your chimney with screens.
- Consult with a nuisance wildlife control expert about having nuisance wild animals living in parts of your home removed.
- Teach children not to touch any animal they do not know, and inform parents if they are bitten.

DON'T...

- Don't feed, touch or adopt wild animals, stray dogs or cats.
- Don't allow very young pets outdoors unless closely observed.
- Don't leave pets outside unattended or let them roam free at night.
- Don't attract wild animals to your home or yard. Keep your property free of stored bird seed or other foods that may attract wild animals.

What is the treatment for Rabies?

Rabies vaccine

AND

Rabies immune globulin (HRIG)



The Cattaraugus County Health Dept conducts multiple annual rabies vaccination clinics for dogs, cats and ferrets that are **FREE!!!**



Contact the [Cattaraugus County Health Department](#) to report all animal bites and get information on bats and Rabies:

Olean

1 Leo Moss Dr, Suite 4010, Olean, NY—14760
Ph#: 716-701-3386

Little Valley

207 Rock City Street, Suite 201, Little Valley, NY—14755
Ph#: 716-938-2474



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.
Cattaraugus County
Health Department



For more information, visit:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>
<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/bats/index.html>
https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/rabies/fact_sheet.htm

For video on how to safely capture a bat:

www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/