

# “*Rabies*” in Cattaraugus County!

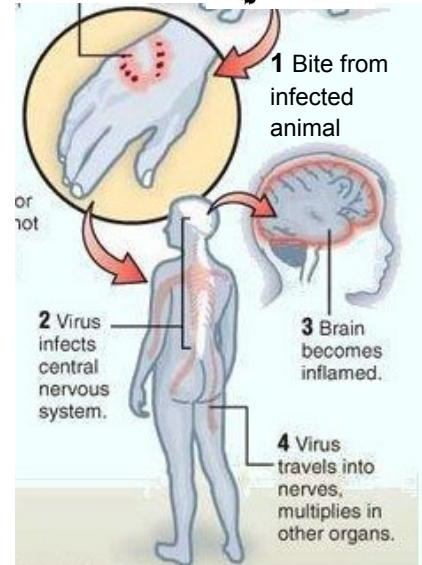
## What is “Rabies”?



- 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 frequently reported rabid wildlife species.
- Domestic pets/farm animals: Any that are not vaccinated can be infected. In NYS: cats are the most frequently infected domestic animals with rabies.



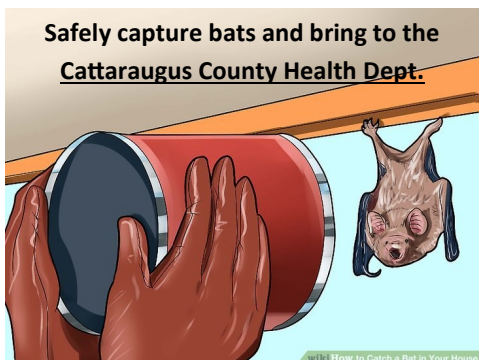
## What are some of the signs and symptoms of Rabies?

### 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



## 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](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/](http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/)