

Vaccinate Your Pets!

You can protect yourself and others by vaccinating your dogs and cats. If left outdoors unsupervised, your dog or cat is more likely to come in contact with a rabid wild animal. Unvaccinated pets bitten by a wild animal need to be confined for 6 months or euthanized.

In Connecticut, all dogs and cats over the age of 3 months are required by law to be vaccinated against rabies. Owners are required to show a vaccination certificate as proof of current rabies vaccination in order to license their dogs.

Check with your town for low-cost rabies clinics!

Please protect us!



Contact

For questions concerning human rabies exposures (e.g. risk assessment, treatment)

Department of Public Health
Epidemiology & Emerging Infections Program
Phone: (860) 509-7994
ct.gov/dph/eeip/rabies

For questions concerning submission of animals involved in human exposures for testing (e.g. packaging, forms)

Department of Public Health
State Public Health Laboratory
Phone: (860) 920-6662
[Request for Rabies Examination Form](#)

For questions concerning domestic animals (e.g. biting incidents, quarantine, vaccination)

Department of Agriculture
Animal Control Division
Phone: (860) 713-2506
ct.gov/doag/animals

For questions concerning wildlife (e.g. biting incidents, wildlife management, rehabilitation)

Department of Energy & Environmental Protection
Wildlife Division: (860) 424-3011
Emergency dispatch: (860) 424-3333
ct.gov/deep/wildlife

For questions concerning submission of animals where there is no significant human exposure (e.g. packaging, forms)

CT Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
Phone: (860) 486-3738
cvmdl.uconn.edu



What You Should Know About Rabies in Connecticut

 **CONNECTICUT**
PUBLIC HEALTH
ct.gov/dph/rabies

About Rabies

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that infects the brains of mammals, including people. The virus is found in the saliva of infected animals and is transmitted primarily through a bite. The virus can also be transmitted if saliva or brain tissue enters open wounds, eyes, nose or mouth.

Only mammals can be infected with and spread rabies; birds, fish, reptiles, and amphibians can not. Although raccoons, skunks, and bats are the most frequent wild animals that test positive for rabies, other wildlife can also spread the disease. Cats are the most frequent domestic animals that test positive for rabies.

Rabies is widespread in the United States and in most parts of the world. Rabies vaccination programs and increased public education have decreased the number of cases among humans. Visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website](#) for additional rabies information.



What You Can do to Help Control Rabies

Be a responsible pet owner!

- Protect your pets by keeping vaccinations up to date.
- Pets should not be allowed to roam.
- Report any domestic animals that are acting strangely to your local animal control officer.

Do not leave food of any kind outside your home, and secure garbage can lids to avoid attracting wild animals.

Do not keep wild animals as pets.

If you see a wild animal acting strangely, report it to the local police or the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection. Do not go near it!

Bats and other wild animals should be kept out of dwellings by closing any small opening they can use to enter. Information about nuisance wildlife is available on the [DEEP website](#).

Contact your veterinarian and local animal control officer if your pet has been exposed to or bitten by a wild animal. Always maintain a respectful distance from wildlife!



If you were bitten by a domestic animal:

- Clean the wound immediately with soap and water.
- Seek medical attention from a health care provider.
- Get contact information from the owner of the pet.
- Contact an animal control officer or local health department for guidance and assistance.

If you were bitten by a wild animal:

- Don't panic!
- Clean the wound immediately with soap and water.
- Seek immediate medical attention from a health care provider.
- Contact an animal control officer or local health department for guidance and assistance.

Bat bites may go unnoticed. When a bat is found in the same room as a person who is sleeping, an unattended child, intoxicated or mentally disabled person, it should be safely captured if possible. Capture the bat will require a small box or can, and a piece of cardboard. Contact your local health department to make arrangements to test the bat or for additional advice if it cannot be captured.