

## IF YOUR PET IS BITTEN

- If your pet has been in a fight with a wild animal, wear gloves when handling it. Isolate your pet from other animals and people for several hours.

*Many Connecticut residents are unnecessarily exposed to the rabies virus when handling their pet after an attack and getting the saliva of the rabid animal on their hands.*

- Call your veterinarian. Your vaccinated pet will need a booster dose of rabies vaccine within five days of the exposure.
- Contact the Greenwich Animal Control Division for advice on what measures to take with your exposed pet.

## RABIES IN ANIMALS

- Usually the first sign of rabies is a change in behavior. The animal can become unusually aggressive or tame. It may appear excited, irritable, affectionate, friendly; it may stagger, convulse, spit, choke or froth at the mouth. Many animals have a marked change in voice.
- After showing signs of rabies, the animal usually dies within one week .

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



**GREENWICH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
Environmental Services    Laboratory  
(203) 622-7838                      (203) 622-7843  
M-F 8am—4pm                      M-F 8am—3pm  
Counter hours:  
8am—1pm

**Greenwich Animal Control Division**  
(203) 622-8299

⇒ **LOCAL LICENSED NUISANCE WILDLIFE CONTROL OPERATORS (private businesses)**

*Call the Greenwich Department of Health Environmental Services Division for a list or look in the phone book Yellow Pages*



**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)**  
[www.cdc.gov/rabies](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies)



**CT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEEP) - WILDLIFE DIVISION**  
[www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?A=2723&O=325944](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?A=2723&O=325944)

### TOWN OF GREENWICH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

101 Field Point Road  
Greenwich, CT 06830  
Phone: 203-622-6488  
[www.greenwichct.org](http://www.greenwichct.org)

# RABIES

- What you should know
- What you should do



**Division Of Environmental Services**

*Enjoy the Outdoors Safely*

## FACTS ABOUT RABIES

- Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. The virus is present in saliva and is usually transmitted to people and animals by a bite from an infected animal.



- Rabies is most often seen in wild mammals such as raccoons, bats, skunks and foxes. Cats, dogs and livestock can also get rabies if they are not protected by vaccinations. In rabid areas, deer and large rodents, such as woodchucks, have also been found to be affected by rabies.



- ***If a bat is found in your home, contact the Greenwich Department of Health immediately for advice.***

- Some animals almost never get rabies. These animals include rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, rats, mice, guinea pigs, gerbils and hamsters.
- Other animals that never get rabies are birds, snakes, fish, turtles, lizards and insects.
- Improved vaccination programs and control of stray animals have been effective in preventing rabies in most pets.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP CONTROL RABIES

- Be sure your dogs and cats are up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations. Vaccinated pets serve as a buffer between rabid wildlife and man. Protecting them will help reduce your risk of exposure. Dogs and cats which are vaccinated after three months of age will be protected for a one-year period.
- Vaccinate your dogs and cats against rabies and keep those vaccinations up-to-date, as required by Connecticut law.
- Keep family pets indoors at night. Don't leave them unattended or allow them to roam free.
- Don't attract wild animals to your home or yard. Keep your property free of stored birdseed or foods that may attract wild animals. Feed pets indoors only. Tightly cap and secure garbage cans. Cap your chimney with screens. Board up any openings to your attic, basement, porch or garage to eliminate entry.
- Never feed or pet wild animals. If a wild animal is on your property, let it wander away. Bring children and pets indoors, if a wild animal appears to be ill. You may contact the Greenwich Animal Control Division. If a wild animal is in your home, you may contact a wildlife nuisance control operator (fee for service).
- Encourage children to immediately tell an adult if they are bitten by an animal. Tell children not to touch any animal they do not know.



## IF YOU ARE BITTEN

- Don't panic.
- Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and lots of water.
- Contact your physician, explain how you got the bite and follow the doctor's advice. If necessary, your physician will give you the post exposure treatment recommended by the United States Public Health Service and may also treat you for other possible infections that could result from the bite.
- If possible, confine or capture the animal under a large box or other container, if that can be done safely. Once captured, don't try to pick up the animal. If the animal cannot be captured, try to memorize its appearance (size, color, etc.) and where it went after biting you.
- Report all animal bites or contact with wild animals to the Greenwich Department of Health and the Greenwich Animal Control Division. If the animal is available for testing, it will be sent to the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Laboratory.  
*NOTE: Though there is no fee for human exposure rabies testing, there is a fee for non-human exposure (i.e. testing a raccoon that was in a fight with your pet).*

