

## ***If your pet has bitten someone...***

- The victim should clean the bite with soap and water and seek medical care immediately.
- Report the bite to Atlantic County Health Department at 609-645-5971.
- Report any unusual illness or behavior from your pet to your veterinarian and the Atlantic County Health Department.
- Don't let your pet free roam and don't give your pet away. The pet must be available for observation.
- After the recommended observation period have your pet vaccinated for rabies if it is overdue.



## ***If your pet has been bitten by a potentially rabid animal...***

- Call your veterinarian immediately
- Even if your pet is currently vaccinated against rabies, a booster is needed.
- Unvaccinated pets exposed to rabid animals will be required to isolate in the home as directed by the Atlantic County Health Department.

## ***Remember!***

- Vaccinate your pets against rabies.
- Do not feed or touch wild animals.
- Avoid contact with strays or pets other than your own.
- Report unusual animal behavior to Atlantic County Health Department 609-645-5971 or your local police.
- Report all bites immediately to the Atlantic County Health Department.



Atlantic County  
Division of Public Health  
201 South Shore Road  
Northfield, NJ 08225  
609-645-5971

[atlantic-county.org/public-health/](http://atlantic-county.org/public-health/)



Atlantic County Executive  
Dennis Levinson

Atlantic County Board of Commissioners  
Maureen Kern, Chairwoman

# *What you should know about* **RABIES**



**Atlantic County  
Division of Public Health**



## ***What is rabies?***

- Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus.
- The virus is found in the saliva of a rabid animal and is transmitted by a bite, or possibly by contamination of an open cut.
- Left untreated , rabies attacks the nervous system and causes death.

## ***What animals get rabies?***

- Only mammals, including people get rabies.
- Rabies occurs most often in wildlife, particularly in bats, raccoons, skunks , groundhogs and foxes.
- Cats account for a vast majority of the rabies cases in New Jersey.
- Farm animals, dogs and other domestic pets can also become infected so take measures to keep wild animals from entering houses barns, and garages.
- Rodents such as rats, mice ,chipmunks, and squirrels are rarely infected.



**Avoid contact  
with stray or wild animals**

**Rabid animals can be vicious and aggressive, or may appear to be drunk and have trouble walking. Some animals may be rabid even though they appear to be normal. People should stay away from all wild and stray animals.**

### ***If you are bitten by a potentially rabid animal:***

- Clean wound immediately with soap and water . Seek medical attention right away.
- Report the bite to the Atlantic County Health Department at 609-645-5971.

### ***If you are bitten by a wild animal:***

- Try to be aware of the animals location . Contact your local police department and the health department.
- Human treatment to prevent rabies may be started immediately or delayed until the testing results are known.
- If you can't locate the animal, you need to speak with your medical provider as soon as possible.

### ***If you are bitten by a dog, cat or other domestic animal:***

- Get information about the pet including the owner's name, phone , address, and description of the animal.

## ***What you can do to prevent rabies:***

- Avoid contact with wildlife
- Remind your kids not to touch or feed stray cats or dogs wandering in the neighborhood and teach them to stay away from wild animals.
- Keep your pets up-to-date on rabies vaccinations.

**The Atlantic County Animal Shelter, located at 240 Old Turnpike Road in Pleasantville, offers free rabies vaccination monthly by appointment only. Call 609-485-2345 or visit [atlantic-county.org/animal-shelter/](http://atlantic-county.org/animal-shelter/)**

