

Protect Yourself

If you see any animal that is acting strange, leave it alone and contact your local Animal Control Agency immediately.



Check us out on:

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Mobile County Animal Shelter

7665 Howells Ferry Road
Mobile, AL 36618

www.mobilecountyanimals.com

Phone: 251-574-3647

Fax: 251-574-6441

E-mail:

mcacshelter@mobile-county.net

Mobile County Animal Shelter

Rabies Information

What you should know....

Telephone: (251) 574-3647



Facts about Rabies

Rabies is caused by a virus present in the saliva of infected animals. It can be transmitted by bites or scratches that break the skin. Without treatment, it is almost always fatal.

- Rabies kills about 50,000 people and millions of animals each year around the world.
- Rabies comes from the Latin word meaning "The Rage."

- Only mammals can get rabies. It is most common in raccoons, bats, skunks, foxes, dogs and cats.



- Cattle and humans can also get rabies.
- The virus causes acute inflammation of the brain, which is almost always fatal if left untreated.
- In the USA, about 93% of the reported cases are in wild animals.

- Raccoons are the most common carriers of rabies among wild animals in our area.



- Cats are the most frequent carriers among domestic pets.

- Rabies has been reported in every state except Hawaii.

Symptoms in Animals

The incubation period of the rabies virus is about one to three months, but can last for several years. Once it reaches the brain or spinal cord, signs of the disease appear.

- Significant changes in the animal's behavior along with general sickness
- Problems swallowing
- Increased drooling or excessive saliva
- Wild animals will move more slowly or appear tame
- Signs of paralysis
- Death



Symptoms in Humans

Symptoms usually don't occur until about 30 to 90 days after the bite. Once symptoms develop, the disease is usually fatal. If you are bitten or scratched, it is very important to report it to the authorities immediately and to complete a bite report.

You will develop a high fever, headache, sore throat, fatigue, nervousness, confusion or anger. You may experience tingling or pain at the bite site. Hallucinations, hydrophobia and paralysis may occur.

Treatment requires a series of six shots given in the arm over a one-month period.

Prevention

- Vaccinate your pets against rabies at 12 weeks of age.
- Keep your pets under supervision at all times; do not let them roam.
- Have your pets spayed or neutered so that they are less likely to roam or leave home.
- Walk your animal on a leash.

DO NOT HANDLE WILD ANIMALS OR BRING THEM HOME!

- If your pet is bitten, take it to the vet for a booster shot immediately.
- Make sure your pet wears its rabies tag at all times.
- Have the vaccination updated as directed by your state.
- Avoid direct contact with stray or wild animals.

What to do if you are bitten

Contact Animal Control or your local law enforcement agency immediately. Wash the wound with soap and water for at least five minutes. See a doctor for a full evaluation.