

Rabies

The Best Way to Protect People & Pets from Rabies:

- Don't feed, touch or adopt wild animals, stray dogs or cats.
- Teach children not to touch animals they do not know and to tell an adult immediately if they are bitten by an animal.
- Avoid attracting wild animals to your home and yard—Keep your property free of stored bird seed and other foods that may attract wild animals; feed pets indoors; Tightly lid or keep garbage indoors.
- Be sure all your animals (pet dogs, cats, ferrets, horses and livestock) are up to date on their rabies vaccinations.
- Pets too young to be vaccinated should be kept indoors and under direct supervision when outdoors.
- Keep family pets indoors at night. Don't allow them outside unattended or let them roam free.
- If your pet has been injured by a rabid animal contact your veterinarian for medical care AND contact the Essex County Public Health Department (518) 873-3500 to determine what additional follow-up may be needed.



Protecting Yourself & Your Pets

If you see a wild animal- especially a raccoon, bat, skunk or fox:

- Stay away and keep children away.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Let the animal go away on its own.
- You may call a nuisance wildlife control officer who may remove the animal for a fee.

Signs of Rabies

The first sign of rabies is usually a change in an animal's behavior. It may become unusually aggressive or tame. It may lose fear of people or natural enemies. Wild animals may appear friendly or affectionate. It may become excited or irritable and attack. Staggering, convulsions, choking, frothing at the mouth & paralysis are sometimes seen. Many animals make unusual sounds. Animals infected with Rabies usually die within one week after showing signs of Rabies.

If the animal is threatening people or pets:

Call Essex County Public Health for advice: (518) 873-3500

Call the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation during business hours.

If you may have been exposed to Rabies

- Wash all wounds thoroughly with soap and water.
- Seek medical attention immediately.
- Report all animal bites or possible Rabies exposures to Essex County Public Health Department (518) 873-3500 1-888-270-7249 after business hours.

Detailed rabies information may be found at NYS Department of Health:
www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/zoonoses/rabies/
CDC: www.cdc.gov/rabies/

Provided by: Essex County Public Health Department

Information Source: New York State Department of Health

