



HUMAN EXPOSURE TO RABIES

What to do if You are Bitten

What to do if you are bitten:

- ◆ Children should tell their parents immediately.
- ◆ As soon as practical, wash the bite area with soap and water. Immediate and thorough cleansing of bites and scratches with soap and water is the most effective means of preventing infection.
- ◆ Go to the hospital for treatment.
- ◆ All bites should be reported to the police. Tell the police as much as you can about the dog - what it looked like, where you saw it, if you've seen it before, and so on. It's important for them to try to find the dog.
- ◆ All animal bites should be reported to Marathon County Health Department. **To report a bite, please call 715-261-1900.**

Note: In most parts of the country, getting rabies from dog bites is a rare occurrence, but it's still possible. An important reason to find the dog is to determine whether it's owned, vaccinated, and whether the owner can be held responsible for not controlling the dog.

If the animal is wild:

- ◆ Keep an eye on the animal so that it can be captured. It is okay for you to capture the animal if you can do so without being bitten again.
- ◆ If it is necessary to kill the animal, **avoid damaging the head** so it may be sent to a lab for examination.
- ◆ If the test results come back positive for rabies, you will need to be vaccinated immediately.
- ◆ If the animal did not have rabies, you were not exposed at the time of the incident.
- ◆ If the animal was not captured, it is assumed that the animal was rabid and you will need to be vaccinated immediately.

If the animal is domestic:

- ◆ Determine if the animal is currently vaccinated by checking the rabies tag on the collar or having the owner call his/her veterinarian.
- ◆ All domestic animals involved in a human exposure incident need to be placed on a 10-day quarantine.
- ◆ The pet needs to be examined by a veterinarian at the beginning, during, and at the end of the quarantine period.
- ◆ If the animal exhibits no signs of rabies, it was not contagious at the time of the incident and you were not exposed.
- ◆ If the animal shows signs of rabies, it will be euthanized and you need to be vaccinated immediately.

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