

How can I help protect myself and my family from rabies?

- Make sure your pets get their rabies shots regularly.
- Keep your pets on your property.
- Do not leave garbage or pet food outside. Food left out may attract wild or stray animals.
- Stay away from wild, sick, hurt, or dead animals.
- Do not pick up or move sick or hurt animals. If you find a wild, sick, or hurt animal, call your county Animal Control office.
- Do not keep wild animals like raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, and wolves as pets. It is dangerous and also illegal.
- Teach your children not to go near, tease, or play with wild animals or strange dogs and cats.

The Georgia Poison Center

The Georgia Poison Center (GPC) is a poison emergency and rabies treatment information service. You can call the GPC to get help in a poison emergency or to get treatment advice following an animal bite. Nurses, pharmacists, and doctors answer the phones. They can tell you what to do if you, your child, or pet is poisoned. In addition, they can tell you what steps to take following an animal bite. The GPC staff can also answer questions about poisons in your home. All emergency calls to the GPC are free of charge.

For more information on poison safety or to order educational materials, call the Education Department at 404.616.9235 or visit our website at www.georgiapoisoncenter.org.

Georgia Poison Center

Grady Health System

80 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE • PO Box 26066
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Certified as a Regional Poison Center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers



Georgia Poison Center

RABIES & ANIMAL SAFETY

IN A POISON EMERGENCY, CALL 24-HOURS A DAY, 7 DAYS A WEEK:

In Metro-Atlanta: 404.616.9000 Outside of Metro-Atlanta: 1.800.272.1222

Teletype for the deaf and hearing impaired only: TDD 404.616.9287

What is rabies?

Rabies is a **deadly** disease caused by a virus. The rabies virus is found in the saliva and brain tissue of infected (rabid) animals. The rabies virus is not found in the blood, urine, or feces of animals.

How is rabies spread?

Rabies can be spread from animal to animal, or animal to human. Rabies is spread when the saliva or brain tissue of an infected (rabid) animal gets in the mouth, the eyes, or an open cut. Rabies is most often spread to animals and humans through a bite from an infected animal.

What animals can get rabies?

Rabies is carried mainly by wild animals like raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats. Humans, dogs, and cats can also get rabies. Squirrels, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rats, mice, and rabbits usually do not get rabies.

Can I get rabies?

You could get rabies if a rabid animal bites or scratches you or if its saliva or brain tissue gets in your mouth, your eye, or an open cut. Rabies can be prevented in humans

if medical treatment is begun soon after contact with the rabies virus. If left untreated, rabies is always deadly.

Can my pet get rabies?

If your pet has not had its rabies shots, it could get rabies. This is why keeping your pet's rabies shots up-to-date is important.

What does a rabid animal look like?

Rabid animals may act tame. They may also display strange or unusual behavior. They may act aggressive, avoid food and water, foam at the mouth, or have trouble moving. Stay away from any unknown animals, especially wildlife. Report any dog or animal acting unusual to your county Animal Control office.

What if another animal bites my pet?

If another animal bites your pet, call the Georgia Poison Center, your county Animal Control office, or your veterinarian right away. They will tell you what to do.

What if an animal bites me?

Wash the bite area with warm, soapy water. Next, call the Georgia Poison Center or your doctor right away. They will tell you if you need medical treatment. Treatment consists of a total of six shots given over the course of one month. The shots are no more painful than any other shot. They are usually given near the area of the bite, or in the arm or the buttocks.

How can I protect my pet from rabies?

- Keep your pet's rabies shots up-to-date. By Georgia law, dogs, cats, and ferrets must get a rabies shot when they are 3-4 months old and every year after that. Call your veterinarian for more details on rabies shots for your pets.
- Keep your pet in your house or yard, or on a leash at all times. If your pet is free to wander around, it is more likely to get rabies.