

What animals get rabies?

Any mammal can get rabies. The most common wild reservoirs of rabies are bats, skunks, foxes, coyotes and raccoons. Bats are the highest rabies risk in L.A. County. Over the past six years there has been an average of one rabid bat per month found in various parts of L.A. County. Domestic animals can also get rabies, although they are a lower risk. The risk increases if they have been bitten or scratched by wildlife.

What should I do if I'm bitten by an animal?

If you've physical contact with an animal, wash the affected area thoroughly with soap and water and get medical attention immediately.

What should I do if I find a bat in my house?

If you wake up and find there's a bat in the home, confine the bat to a room by closing all doors and windows, call animal control and consult a physician immediately.

If you are awake and know you have not been exposed, try to confine the bat to a room and call animal control.

How can I tell if a bat has rabies?

Any bat that is active by day, is found in a place where bats are not usually seen, or is unable to fly, is far more likely than others to be rabid. Such bats are often the most easily approached. Therefore, it is best never to handle any bat.



QUESTIONS ABOUT RABIES AND YOU



Information courtesy of :

Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control
Questions and Answers About Rabies
www.cdc.gov/incidod/dvrd/rabies

A Public Service Project

Los Angeles City Animal Services

To obtain more information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/ques&ans/q&a.htm>

<http://lapublichealth.org/vet/index.htm>

How do people get rabies?

People usually get rabies from the bite of a rabid animal. It is also possible, but quite rare, that people may get rabies if infectious material from a rabid animal, such as saliva, gets directly into their eyes, nose, mouth or a wound.

Can I get rabies in any way other than an animal bite?

Non-bite exposures to rabies are very rare. Scratches, abrasions, open wounds, or mucous membranes contaminated with saliva or other potentially infectious material from a rabid animal constitute non-bite exposures. Other contact, such as petting a rabid animal or contact with blood, urine or feces of a rabid animal, does not constitute an exposure.



How soon after an exposure should I seek medical attention.

You should wash the exposure area thoroughly with soap and water immediately after the exposure. Medical assistance should be obtained as soon as possible, post exposure treatment is not always necessary.

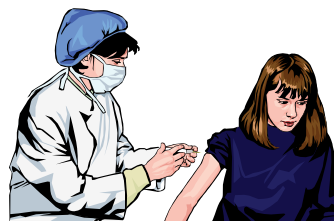
What medical attention do I need if I'm exposed to rabies?

The decision to treat for rabies: The likelihood of an animal having rabies depends heavily on the species of the animal.

Recommended rabies treatment schedule:

- Day zero (day of the bite) - HRIG (human rabies immune globulin hyper immune serum) given at the site of the bite.
- Day zero- HDCV injection (given as well as HRIG).
- Day three-HDCV injection
- Day seven-HDCV injection
- Day fourteen-HDCV injection
- Day twenty eight-HDCV injection (last in series)

The HRIG (human rabies immune globulin hyper immune serum) is given directly to the bite area. All other injections (HDCV Injections) are IM (given in the arm muscle).



Consult with your physician for further details.

What if I can't get rabies vaccine on the day I'm supposed to get my next dose?

You should consult with your doctor, or state or local public health officials for recommended times if there is going to be a change in the recommended schedule of shots. Rabies prevention is a serious matter and changes should not be made in the schedule of doses.

If you have to travel or plan to relocate at anytime during the rabies treatment schedule, let your physician know immediately.

Can rabies be transmitted from one person to another?

The only well-documented cases occurred among 8 recipients of transplanted corneas and recently among three recipients of solid organs (see MMWR article). Casual contact, such as touching a person with rabies or contact with non-infectious fluid or tissue (urine, blood, feces) does not constitute an exposure and does not require post exposure treatment. Contact with someone who is receiving rabies vaccination does not constitute rabies exposure and does not require post exposure treatment.