

## Bats and Rabies



- ◆ Today, bites from bats are the main source of rabies in humans in the United States.
- ◆ If you are bitten by a bat or saliva from a bat gets into your eyes, nose, mouth, or a wound, wash the affected area thoroughly and:
  - 1.) get medical advice immediately
  - 2.) call the **TLCHD at 419-213-4100, Ext 3.**
- ◆ Bats must first be euthanized or already dead before being submitted for rabies testing. You may do this yourself or contact a licensed animal removal service. Instructions on how to safely capture a bat in your home can be found on the Centers for Disease Control website at: [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies)
- ◆ It is possible, but rare, that someone might be bitten or exposed to a bat and not know it.
  - ⇒ If you discover a bat in a room of a sleeping person or child, the person should be evaluated by a medical professional.
  - ⇒ Also, contact the **TLCHD** to have the bat tested for rabies, especially if the bat is acting unusually tame.
- ◆ If you think your pet has been bitten by or come in contact with a bat, contact a veterinarian for consultation.

## Wildlife and Rabies

- ◆ In the U.S., wild animals accounted for the majority of reported cases of rabies in 2001. The most common rabid wild animals reported include:

- ⇒ Raccoons
- ⇒ Skunks
- ⇒ Bats
- ⇒ Foxes



### Tips to Prevent

#### Exposure to Rabies from Wild Animals:

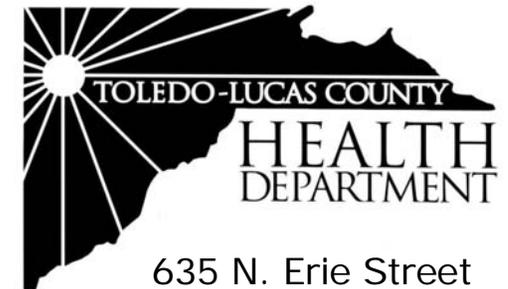
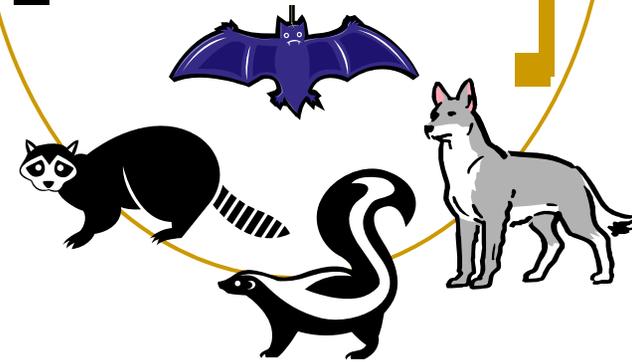
- ◆ Enjoy wild animals (raccoons, skunks, foxes) from a distance. **Do not handle or feed wild animals.**
- ◆ Eliminate all possible sources of food and harborage from around your home such as open garbage cans and litter. Also, seal up hiding places.
- ◆ **Never** adopt wild animals or bring them into your home.
- ◆ **Do not** try to nurse sick animals to health. Call an animal rescue agency for assistance.
- ◆ Report unusual animal deaths and behavior to the **TLCHD**.



- ◆ Teach children **not** to handle unfamiliar animals. This includes wild and domestic animals, even if they appear friendly. "**Love your own, leave other animals alone**" is a good principle for children to learn.

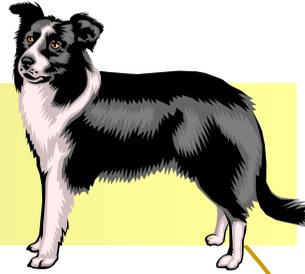
# RABIES

## A GUIDE FOR LUCAS COUNTY RESIDENTS



635 N. Erie Street  
Toledo, Ohio 43604  
Phone: (419) 213-4100 Ext. 3  
Fax: (419) 213-4141  
[www.lucascountyhealth.com](http://www.lucascountyhealth.com)

# RABIES INFORMATION



## WHAT IS RABIES?

- ◆ Rabies is a serious viral disease that causes illness in some animals and in humans.
- ◆ The rabies virus is most often transmitted through the bite of an infected animal.
- ◆ Most cases of rabies in the U.S. occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes.
- ◆ Domestic animals (such as cats, dogs, and cattle) account for less than 10% of the reported rabies cases.
- ◆ Human rabies is rare in the U.S. Only 48 cases have been diagnosed since 1990. The last reported case of human rabies in Ohio was in 1970.



- ◆ 16,000—39,000 people are treated each year for possible exposure to rabies from animal bites.

## PROTECT YOUR PETS

*The best way to prevent rabies is to make sure your pets get and stay vaccinated against rabies!! Also, make sure your pet wears their rabies vaccination tags.*

### Other ways to prevent rabies in your pets:

- ◆ Walk your dog on a leash. Never let them roam freely where wildlife may be present. Keep them in a fenced yard or on a leash.
- ◆ Consider keeping your pets indoors.
- ◆ If an animal bites your pet, handle your pet carefully so you do not get bitten. Contact a veterinarian for a consultation and, if needed, to get a rabies booster for your pet. Even if they have had the rabies vaccination, a booster shot will often help them fight off the disease better.
- ◆ To have wild animals removed from your property, especially those acting strangely, contact a licensed animal removal service. For stray dogs, contact the **Lucas County Dog Warden at 419-213-2800**.
- ◆ Get your pets spayed or neutered. Pets that are fixed are less likely to leave home, become strays, and make more stray animals.

## ANIMAL BITES

### WHAT DO I DO IF I AM BITTEN BY AN ANIMAL?

- ◆ If you are bitten by an animal, wash the wound with soap and water vigorously for at least five minutes.



- ◆ You should visit a doctor as soon as possible for evaluation, treatment of the wound, and to determine if you require a special medical treatment called post-exposure prophylaxis.
  - ⇒ Post-exposure prophylaxis, when given promptly and appropriately, is 100% successful in preventing rabies in people.
- ◆ For bite and exposure incidents within Lucas County, call the **Toledo-Lucas County Health Department (TLCHD) at 419-213-4100, ext. 3**.
  - ⇒ This is important for making sure all people exposed to the animal receive proper evaluation and treatment, if necessary.
  - ⇒ For incidents involving stray or unknown dogs, you should also contact the **Lucas County Dog Warden at 419-213-2800**.
- ◆ If you are bitten by an animal that is a pet (dog, cat, or ferret), the animal must be watched for signs of rabies for at least 10 days. If the animal shows signs of illness during this 10-day period, it may need to be euthanized and tested for rabies.
- ◆ If you have been bitten by a wild animal, the animal should be trapped, if at all possible, euthanized and tested for rabies.