There is NO TREATMENT for RABIES once SIGNS APPEAR

Signs of Rabies

Staggering	Lameness
Walking in circles	Behavioral changes
Paralysis	Fearfulness
Agitation	Depression
Lethargy	Bellowing in cattle

- Rabid wild animals may attack animals, people or objects
- Nocturnal animals may be active during the day

Bat Bites

- Bites may leave little or no evidence of wound or puncture
- People may feel a sting or needle prick sensation
- Most recent cases of rabies in humans in the U.S. have been due to bat bites that were not recognized or reported

When to Test an Animal

If a person:

- Is bitten by a bat or other wild animal of concern
- Is bitten by a domestic animal that cannot be confined and observed for 10 days
- Has any physical contact with a bat
- Wakes up to find a bat in their room
- Finds a bat in a room with a child or vulnerable adult

Contact the MDH (**651-201-5414**) if you are concerned about human exposure

The BRAIN MUST REMAIN INTACT in order to test an animal for RABIES

How to Capture and Submit a Bat for Testing

- Use a container with a lid, bats may bite through fabric
- Wearing leather gloves, approach bat slowly, place container over bat, slide lid underneath, flip container over and secure with tape
- A live bat may be hand-delivered to the MN Veterinary Diagnostic Lab or euthanized by a veterinarian prior to submission
- Animal control officers or pest control professionals may be able to capture and submit a bat

Deliver Or Send Specimens To:

Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
1333 Gortner Ave
St. Paul, MN 55106
1-800-605-8787; 612-625-8787

RABIES

Facts You Should Know

MINNESOTA BOARD of ANIMAL HEALTH

MINNESOTA MDH DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA VETERINARY DIAGNOSTIC LAB

MVMA

Rabies in Animals

- Caused by a virus
- Spread through saliva, usually by a bite
- Can spread through contact with mucous membranes
- Any mammal can develop rabies
- Skunks and bats are the wildlife carriers in Minnesota

SKUNKS & BATS are of greatest CONCERN for RABIES in Minnesota

Wild Animal Bites to Pets or Livestock

- Call your veterinarian to determine if rabies is a concern
- Talk to your veterinarian about submitting the wild animal for rabies testing
- Dogs, cats and ferrets should be vaccinated or boostered for rabies
- Contact the MN Board of Animal Health (BAH) at **651-201-6808** for other questions regarding rabies and your pets or livestock

Bites to Humans

1. Wash bite with soap and water
2. See your physician for evaluation
3. Contact the MN Department of Health (MDH) at **651-201-5414** with questions, you may be advised to:
   - Confine and observe the animal for 10 days
   - Submit the animal for rabies testing
   - Receive the rabies vaccine series

Search keyword "rabies" for more information and to access a specimen submission form:

www.mn.gov/bah
www.health.state.mn.us
www.vdl.umn.edu

LIVESTOCK AND PETS, including

DOGS, CATS, CATTLE, AND HORSES

CAN ALSO CONTRACT RABIES

Prevent Rabies

- Keep dogs, cats, ferrets and horses currently vaccinated
- Your veterinarian may advise that livestock be vaccinated in some cases
- Keep stray and wild animals away from pets and livestock
- Do not attract stray or wild animals to your home or yard
- Do not approach unfamiliar or wild animals, and teach your children the same
- Do not keep wild animals as pets
- Never leave infants and toddlers alone with any animal
- Report stray animals or those acting unusual to local animal control
- Bat-proof your home
- Hunters and trappers should avoid animals with abnormal behavior
- Avoid contact with dogs and cats while traveling, especially internationally