

April 2023 Board of Health Spotlight

Rabies



What Is Rabies?

- Rabies is a viral disease that infects the central nervous system.
- Infection with the virus is nearly always fatal if appropriate medical care is not received.
- All warm-blooded mammals including humans are susceptible to rabies.



Transmission

- Rabies virus is spread through direct contact with saliva or nervous system tissue from an infected animal.



Animal bites



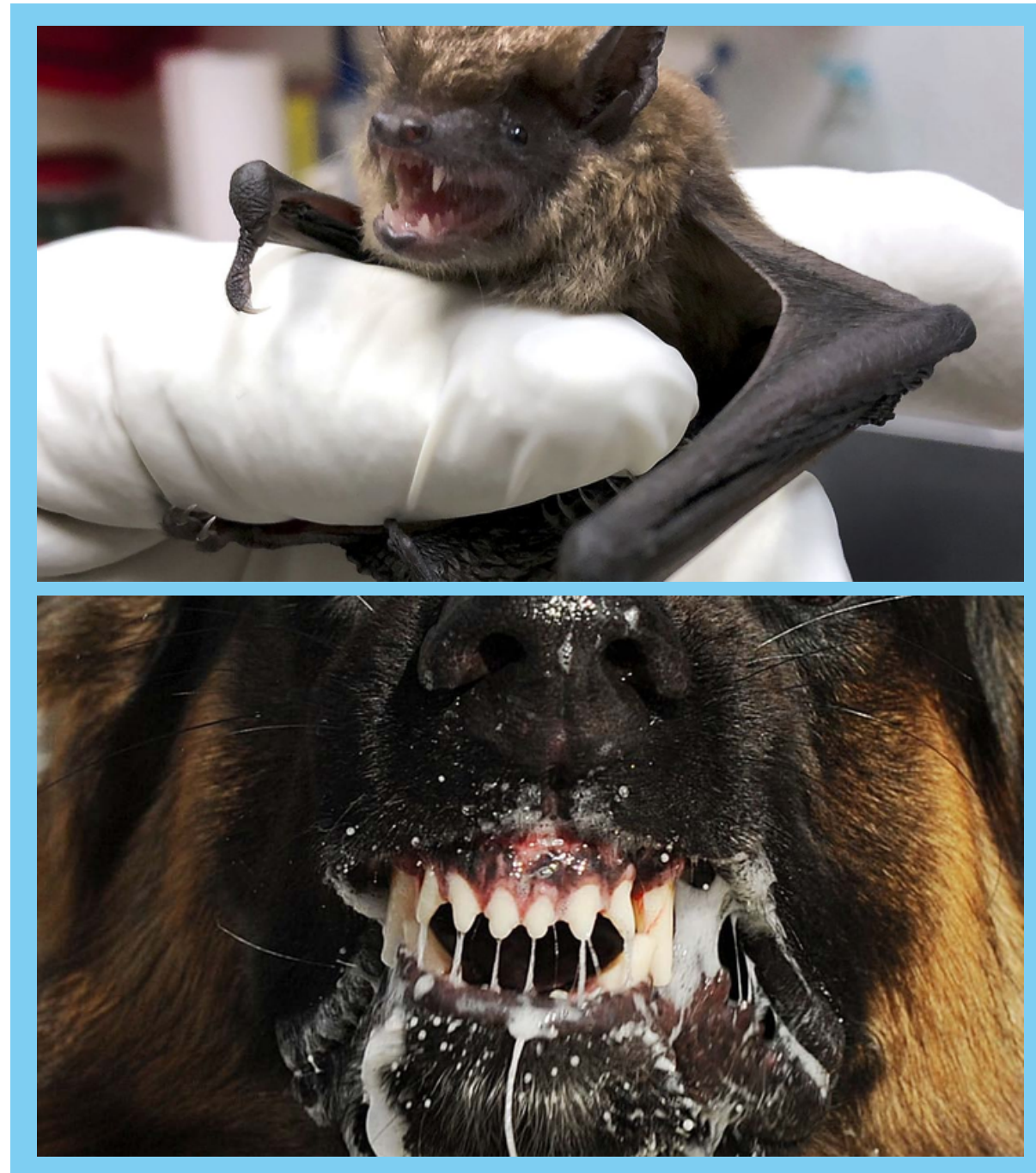
**Scratches and
lacerations**



**Virus contact with
mucous membranes**

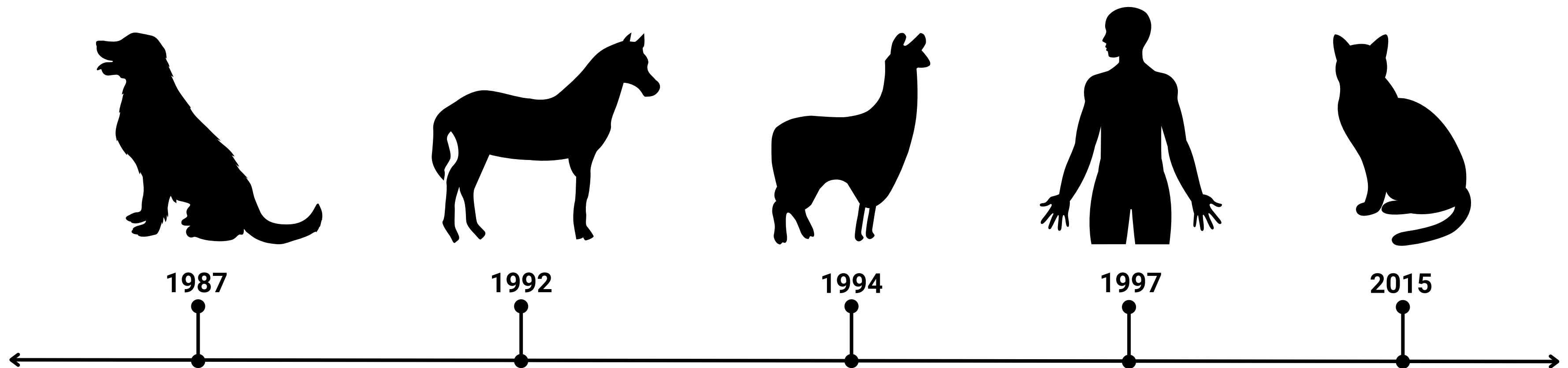
Rabies in Animals

- In the US, more than 90% of cases in animals occur in wildlife.
- Pets and livestock can get rabies from bats in WA.
- Symptoms to look out for in animals.
 - Behavior change
 - Excessive drooling or foaming in the mouth
 - Difficulty swallowing
 - Loss of coordination
 - Drooping of lower jaw
 - Unusually aggressive or vicious behavior
 - Sometimes animal may not appear ill
- Lab testing is the only way to know for sure.

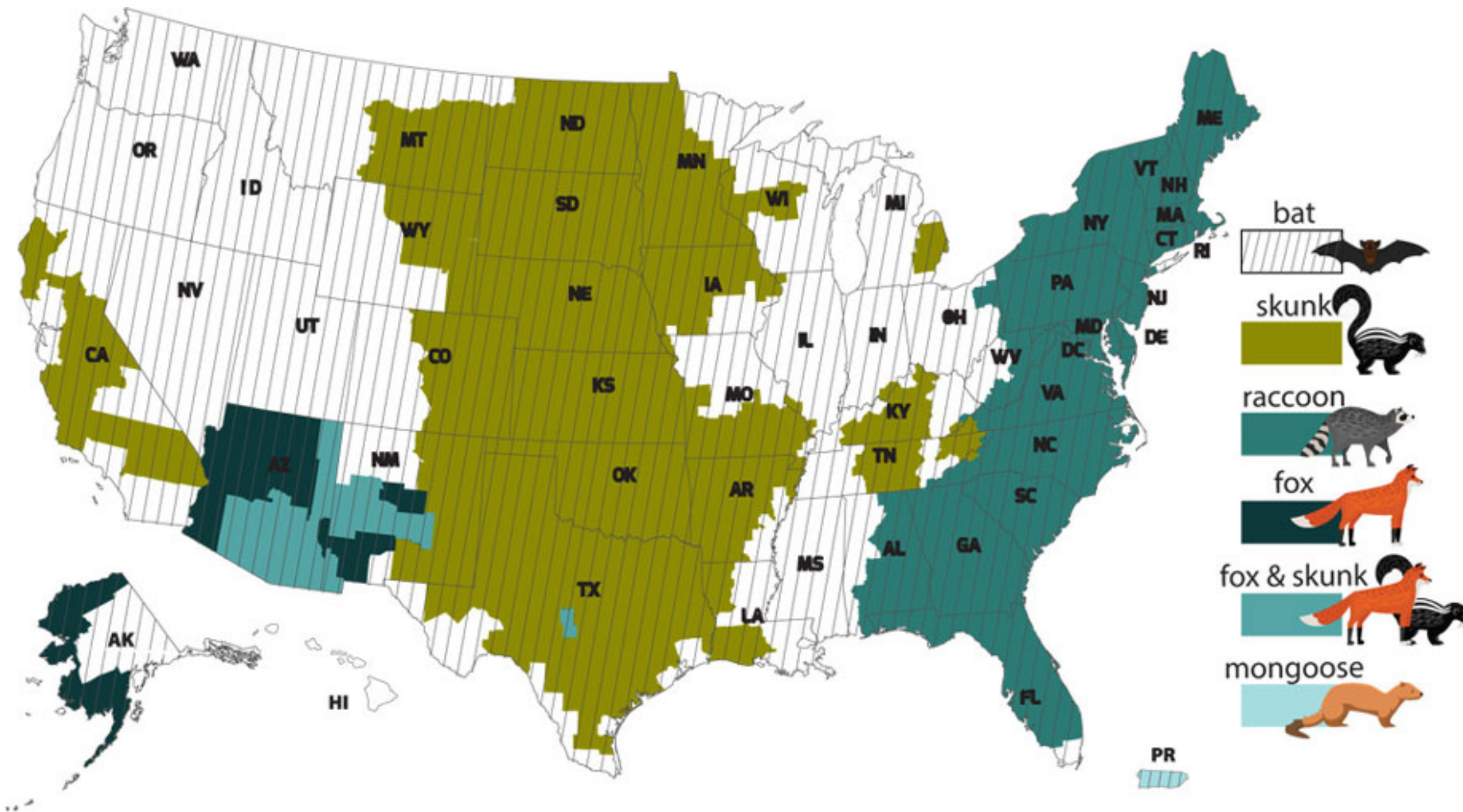


WA State Rabies Cases

- Bats are the only known carrier of rabies in Washington State.
- Less than 1% of wild bats are infected with rabies.
- Last known rabies cases in WA for different mammals includes:



Rabies in the US



Rabies in WA State vs United States

The number of animal rabies cases, including both domestic animals and wildlife:



- Wildlife: 40
- Domestic animals: 0



- Wildlife: 4,589
- Domestic animals: 362

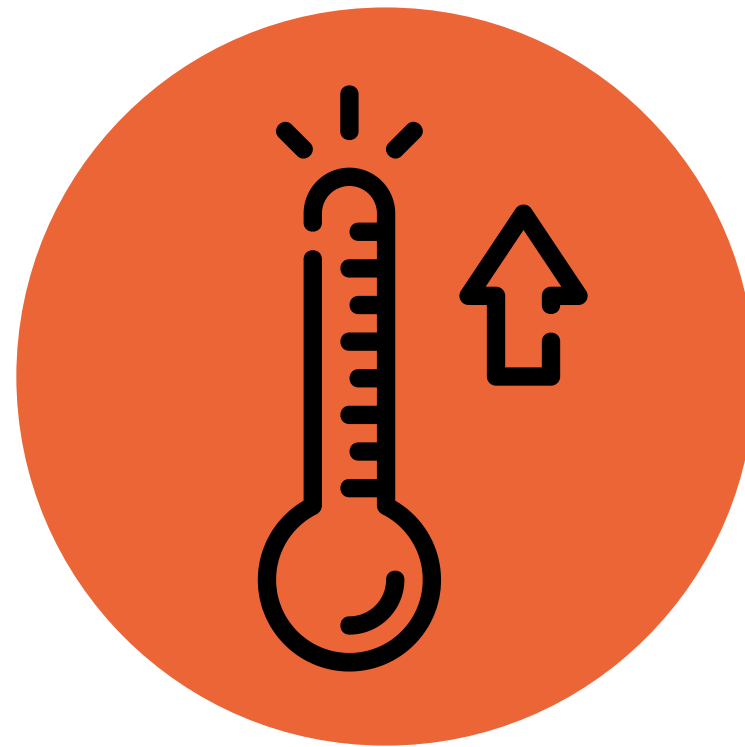
*Based off data from 2018.

Rabies in Humans

- After a rabies exposure, symptoms may appear after 2-8 weeks or even months.



Headache



Fever



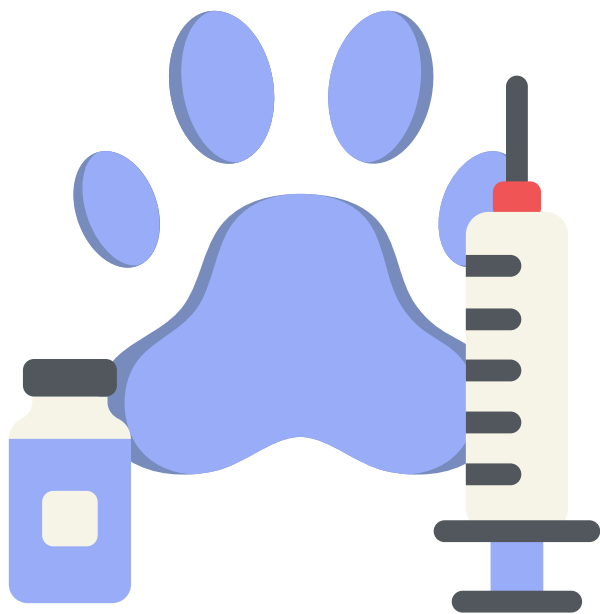
Pain at exposure site



Agitation or confusion

Rabies Prevention

- Protect yourself and your pets and family from rabies with the following advice:



**Keep pet's vaccinations
up-to-date**



Keep pets supervised



**Do not touch or handle
wild animals**



**Leave strays and other's
pets alone**

Partnerships



Local vet




Local hospitals



Public health lab

YHD's Role

- Suspected rabies cases must be immediately reported to YHD.
 - Rabies cases are a notifiable condition.
- Fill out an animal bite report.
- Environmental Health will determine if the animal needs to be tested and if medication is needed for the victim.
- Partnership with PHL and a local veterinarian for specimen testing.



YAKIMA HEALTH DISTRICT
 1210 Ahtanum Ridge Drive
 Union Gap WA 98903
 509.249.6525 or 509-249-6541

ANIMAL BITE REPORT

FAX WITHIN 24 HOURS TO:
(509) 249-6625

IMPORTANT: FILL IN FORM AS COMPLETELY AS POSSIBLE Does ☐ Victim ☐ Parent ☐ Owner speak Spanish only?

VICTIM INFORMATION

Last Name _____ First Name _____ MI _____ DOB ____/____/____ Age ____ Sex: ☐ M ☐ F
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home phone (____) _____-_____ Work Phone (____) _____-_____ Cell Phone (____) _____-_____
 Occupation _____ Employer _____
 If victim under 18: Parent/Guardian Name _____ Phone (____) _____-_____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 School Name _____ City _____ Grade _____
 Has victim had rabies vaccination (min. 3 doses) in past? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unk Total Doses: ____ Last Dose ____/____/____
 Has victim received a Tetanus shot in the last 5 years? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unk Most recent tetanus shot ____/____/____

BITE INFORMATION

Date of bite ____/____/____ What happened to cause bite? _____

 Where did bite occur (e.g. home, work, etc) _____
 Site of bite wound (e.g. head, hand, leg) _____
 Was the skin broken? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unk Was the wound cleaned? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unk If yes, at: ☐ Home ☐ Health Facility
 Who was notified? ☐ Doctor or other healthcare provider ☐ Animal Control, District Name _____
☐ Police, Case # _____ ☐ Other _____
 If Doctor or Healthcare Provider seen: Name of Clinic or Hospital _____
 Doctor Name _____ Phone Number (____) _____-_____

ANIMAL AND OWNER INFORMATION

ANIMAL INFORMATION: (do not use this form for rabbit or rodent bites)
 Type: ☐ Bat ☐ Cat ☐ Dog ☐ Ferret ☐ Raccoon ☐ Other _____ Size: ☐ S ☐ M ☐ L
 Ownership: ☐ Stray ☐ Wild ☐ Domestic → If domestic animal, name _____ Sex: ☐ M ☐ F ☐ Unk
 Breed _____ Color _____ Disposition: ☐ Healthy ☐ Sick ☐ died, date: ____/____/____ ☐ Unk
 If sick, symptoms: ☐ Paralyzed ☐ Drooling ☐ Confused ☐ Thirsty ☐ Aggressive ☐ Agitated ☐ Other _____
 Born in U.S.? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unk Traveled out of country in last 6 mos.? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ Unk Where? _____
 Animal rabies vaccination status: ☐ Vaccinated ☐ Vaccination not current ☐ Never been vaccinated ☐ Unknown
 Rabies vaccination within last 3 years? ☐ Y ☐ No ☐ Unk Most recent (mo/yr) ____/____ Total doses ____
 Animal Clinic Name _____ City _____ Phone (____) _____-_____
OWNER INFORMATION:
 Name _____ Phone (____) _____-_____
 Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

YHD USE ONLY: Rec'd ____/____/____ From _____ ☐ Fax ☐ Verbal ☐ Mail-PM ____/____/____
 Investigator _____ PHIMS# _____ Ent ____/____/____ Comp ____/____/____ RFMIT? ☐ N ☐ Y ____/____/____
 NOQ ____/____/____ ☐ Mail ☐ Verbal NOQR ____/____/____ ☐ Mail ☐ Verbal Other LHJ? ☐ N ☐ Y → LHJ ____/____/____ Not ____/____/____

G:\GROUP\PHL\aura\Animal Bites\10-06 Animal Bite Report.doc Last Updated: June 2015

YHD's Role

- If medication is needed, YHD nurses coordinate with local hospitals.
- Medical treatment for rabies is Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)
 - Initial day of treatment includes 1 dose of human rabies immunoglobulin and rabies vaccine.
 - Additional doses on days 3, 7, and 14.



Risk	Animal type	Geographic location of exposure	Call LHJ	Animal capture/testing recommendation	PEP recommendation
HIGH	<u>Any</u> rabid-acting* mammal or a bat†	Anywhere	Yes	Capture & immediately test. For bites to head or neck, from bat, or from rabid-acting animal, test within 24 hours.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If testing occurs within recommended time, wait for results to determine need for PEP. If testing or results delayed, begin PEP but discontinue if test is negative.
	Raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, hybrid (canine or feline), or other wild carnivore	Area where rabies is endemic in wild carnivores (<u>not</u> Washington)			
UNKNOWN	Raccoon, skunk, fox, coyote, hybrid (canine or feline), or other wild carnivore	In Washington	Yes	Fully assess risk; testing generally performed.	Depends on risk. CDC considers wild carnivores potentially rabid. As of 12/2010, no endemic rabies in wild carnivores in Washington, but no routine surveillance (see back).
MEDIUM	Normal-acting, healthy dog, cat, or ferret (D/C/F). Does <u>not</u> apply to hybrids.	Rabies-endemic area or animal imported from Asia, Africa, Middle East, South/Central America within past 6 months	Yes	Confine/observe for 10 days. [§]	Consult LHJ about PEP. If PEP started, can be discontinued if animal survives 10 day observation.
LOW	Normal-acting, healthy dog, cat, or ferret (D/C/F). Does <u>not</u> apply to hybrids.	In the U.S.	Yes	Confine/observe for 10 days. [§]	Consult LHJ about starting PEP immediately. If test is negative, discontinue PEP.
		Provoked bite, vaccinated D/C/F AND animal has <u>no</u> bat/wild carnivore exposure	No	Victim to confine/observe for 10 days. [§]	If D/C/F alive & healthy after 10 days, PEP unnecessary.
VERY LOW	Small rodent, opossum, rabbit, squirrel, or livestock (e.g., cattle, horse, sheep)	Anywhere	No	No need to test unless rabid-acting* or unusual circumstances. Livestock should be evaluated by a veterinarian.	PEP not necessary unless extremely unusual circumstances; consult LHJ in such cases.

YHD Strategic Goals



**Deliver mandated
services**



**Develop a network of
community partners
invested in improving
public health**



**Increase the
effectiveness and
efficiency of district
services**

Questions?