



**RAGE DU
RATON**

People in municipalities within the surveillance zone for raccoon rabies are asked to report the following suspicious animals:

- Any raccoons, skunks or foxes that are found dead
- As well as, raccoons, skunks, foxes, dogs, or cats that appear disoriented, abnormally aggressive, or paralyzed

For a list of the municipalities located within the surveillance zone for raccoon rabies, go to:

www.rageduratonlaveur.gouv.qc.ca
(french only).

Reporting a suspect animal

1 877 346-6763

From 8:30 am,
to 4:30 pm,
Monday to Friday



What to do if you are bitten or come into contact with the saliva of a suspicious animal

For anyone who has been bitten or has come into contact with the saliva of a suspicious animal, it is very important to:

- Wash the affected area of the body with lots of soap and water for ten minutes
- Call Info-Santé Service immediately at 8-1-1
- In the event of a domestic animal, try to find the owner's name and contact information

Who to contact if you suspect rabies exposure

INFO-SANTÉ SERVICE 8-1-1

If you are afraid that you may have been exposed to rabies, contact the Info-Santé Service throughout Québec by dialing 8-1-1.

Photo of fox (panel 1): MRNF
Photo of bat (panel 1): M.B. Fenton
Photo of fox cub (panel 6): Pierre Pouliot, MRNF
Photo of raccoon and skunk (panel 6): Fred Klus, MRNF

**Santé
et Services sociaux**
Québec



RABIES at large!



Watch out
for animals...



Québec



ANIMAL RABIES

Rabies is a fatal disease that can be transmitted from an infected animal to a human.

Definition

Rabies is a disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system of mammals, including humans. The wild animals most often responsible for transmitting rabies are foxes, skunks, bats and raccoons. Domestic animals (dogs, cats, or cattle) that come in contact with infected wild animals can also become infected. Rabies is therefore a very serious disease that can be transmitted to humans, because once the first symptoms appear, death is inevitable.

Symptoms

In humans, the first sign of rabies is numbness at the site of the animal bite, accompanied by fever. Other symptoms may follow, such as muscle spasms and difficulty breathing.

A rabies vaccination received soon after being bitten or coming into contact with the saliva of an infected animal prevents the disease.

Method of transmission

Rabies is transmitted to humans when the saliva of an infected animal comes into contact with an open wound or a mucous membrane (eye, nose, mouth). Although animal bites are the most usual method of infection, rabies can also be transmitted, albeit rarely, by a scratch from a rabid animal. The virus is not transmitted through contact with the blood, urine, or stool of a rabid animal.

Incubation period

The incubation period is the time between exposure to the virus and the appearance of the first signs of the disease. Generally, among humans, the incubation period varies from two to eight weeks, but can sometimes be longer.

Watch out if an animal is behaving in an unusual manner! It could have rabies.

Abnormal behaviour you may observe in infected animals

Wild animals:

- Animal that let people pet them, exhibit an inexplicable loss of fear of humans, or stay close to peoples' homes
- A nocturnal animal species that is active in the day-time, but cannot flee or fly
- An animal that staggers or becomes paralyzed
- Animals that attack humans or domestic animals

Domestic animals:

- Animal that exhibit a loss of appetite and, in some cases, excessive secretion of saliva (foaming at the mouth)
- Friendly animals that become aggressive and try to bite people, other animals, or even objects
- Normally aggressive animals that turn docile and submissive
- Animals that withdraw to an isolated location
- Animal that have increasing difficulty in moving about, become paralyzed after a few days, and then quickly die

What to do with a suspicious animal ?

Wild animals:

- Stay away from the animal and call Service Québec at 1-877-644-4545

Domestic animals:

- If it is your own pet, isolate it or tie it up, and call a veterinarian. If it is a stray, contact your municipality

If you absolutely must handle the animal, avoid direct contact by wearing thick gloves. Note that the tests to detect rabies are performed on brain tissue so be sure to keep the head intact.

Be careful !

- Do not feed or pet baby or adult wild animals, even if they seem harmless.
- Do not adopt orphaned wild animals.
- Keep your dogs in a safe place, tied up or on a leash.
- Handle your pet with gloves if is bitten by another animal, tie it up or isolate it until you have received instructions from a veterinarian.
- Have your dog or cat vaccinated against rabies as recommended by your veterinarian.
- Notify the municipality of any stray animals.
- Teach your children not to approach, touch, or pet wild animals or household pets they do not know.
- Always supervise young children when they are around wild animals or pets.
- Don't touch dead or sick animals.
- Have your pets vaccinated against rabies.
- Wash your hands after any contact with an animal.

