



### How is the rabies virus transmitted?

The rabies virus is found in the saliva of infected animals. It is transmitted by:

- ✓ a wound inflicted by the animal (bite, scratch);
- ✓ contact between animal saliva and a wound or mucous membrane (eyes, nose, mouth).

**Anyone who has touched or been bitten by a mammal should wash the affected body part with soap and water for 10 to 15 minutes. Then contact Info-Santé 811 or a physician as soon as possible.**

If the animal is available, don't get rid of it. The health care professional consulted will also give the appropriate instructions concerning the animal.

For medical information on rabies,  
**call Info-Santé 811 or consult a physician.**

For more information, visit:  
**[Quebec.ca/human-rabies](http://Quebec.ca/human-rabies)**

To find out more about  
rabies in animals, see:  
**[Quebec.ca/rabies-animals](http://Quebec.ca/rabies-animals)**

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**WARNING**  
**Wild Animals**  
**Can Have Rabies**

## What is rabies?

Rabies is a contagious and fatal disease caused by a virus that affects all mammals, including humans. The rabies virus is transmitted to humans through contact with an infected animal. Certain wild animals are more likely to be infected, such as bats, raccoons, foxes and skunks.



Never touch a wild or unknown animal. **An animal may appear healthy but be infected with the rabies virus.** Domestic animals such as dogs and cats can also be infected by wild animals.

Fortunately, there is a rabies preventive treatment which, when managed quickly **after** contact with an infected animal, prevents the disease from developing in humans. A vaccine is also available for cats and dogs. Consult your veterinarian about this.



## Bat Rabies: A Risk Throughout Québec

Every year, cases of rabies are detected in bats. Although only a small percentage of bats are infected with rabies, they can accidentally enter our homes, increasing the risk of transmitting the disease to us or our pets.

A wound inflicted by a bat (bite or scratch) can go unnoticed, as it may be **invisible and painless**. That's why anyone who has touched or been in contact with a bat should:

- ✓ **Call Info-Santé 811 immediately or consult a physician.** A rabies preventive treatment may be indicated;
- ✓ **Follow the instructions of your health care professional**, who will assess the need to capture the bat for analysis. The result of this analysis may allow the preventive treatment to be avoided.

If your pet may have come into contact with the animal, it's important to consult your veterinarian as soon as possible.

## Bats, A Species Worth Protecting

Bats play an important role in the ecosystem. They must be protected but contact with them must be avoided.

## How to capture a bat?

To capture a bat safely, it is important to:

- ✓ always wear thick gloves;
- ✓ avoid touching the bat directly, even with gloves on.

If the bat is alive, wait until it lands on a surface that allows it to be trapped in a container. To prevent it flying away, slide a rigid cardboard over the opening of the container, then secure the cardboard to the container.

Keep the captured animal in a safe place.

If the bat is dead, use a shovel or other object to place it in a thick bag lined with a second bag. Place the wrapped animal in the freezer.

Remove gloves and wash hands.

If you haven't already done so, call Info-Santé 811. The nurse will specify the steps to be taken to recover the bat for analysis, if necessary. If analysis is not required, the animal carcass can be disposed of in the household garbage.

