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## How can I prevent animal bites and rabies exposure?

- Avoid stray dogs and cats.
- When your pet is outside, use a leash.
- Vaccinate pet dogs, cats, ferrets, and livestock against rabies.
- Stay away from all wild animals, especially those acting abnormally.
- Teach your children not to approach any unfamiliar, stray, or wild animals.
- Supervise young children around all animals, even pets.
- Do not keep exotic or wild animals as pets, regardless of how young or cute they are.
- Exclude bats from living quarters by keeping screens in good repair and by closing any small openings that could allow them to enter.

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## Animal Bite Resources

### Report animal bites to:

Fond du Lac County Sheriff's Department  
(920) 929-3390

Campbellsport Police Department  
(920) 533-5391

Fond du Lac City Police Department  
(920) 906-5555

North Fond du Lac Police Department  
(920) 906-5555

Village of Brandon Police Department  
(920) 346-5555

Village of Oakfield Police Department  
(920) 583-3834

Town of Ripon Police Department  
(920) 748-2910

Rosendale Police Department  
(920) 872-5050

Waupun Police Department  
(920) 324-7903

Ripon Police Department  
(920) 748-5243

**OR**

Fond du Lac County Health Department  
(920) 929-3085



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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**Fond du Lac County  
Health Department**

## Animal Bite/Rabies



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## What is rabies?

- Rabies is a deadly disease that is caused by the rabies virus: *Rabies lyssavirus*.
- The virus can be transmitted when the saliva gets into wounds, scratches or mucous membranes.
- Symptoms vary, but most typically appear between one to three months in humans.
- Once symptoms of rabies appear, it is almost always fatal.
- Post-exposure treatment may be necessary.

## What animals typically carry rabies?

- All species of mammals are able to become infected with rabies.
- Raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes, and coyotes are common wild animals that may carry rabies.
- Cats, cattle, and dogs are common domestic animals that may carry rabies.

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## What constitutes a rabies exposure?

- Any penetration of the skin can be considered to be an exposure. Most commonly, this is in the form of a bite; however, transmission may occur through scratches because animals lick their paws.
- In addition, exposure of mucous membranes (e.g., eyes, nose, mouth) to saliva of suspect animals pose a risk of transmitting rabies virus.

### Please note: Bats warrant special consideration

If you wake up to find a bat in your room, you must consider this an exposure.

OR

If you see a bat flying around a person who may be unaware, you must consider this an exposure.

Please call the Health Department at 920-929-3085.

Bat scratches and bites are incredibly small and may go unnoticed.

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## What do I do if someone is bitten?

- Wash the wound immediately and thoroughly with soap and water.
- Contact your health care provider as soon as possible.
- Report to one of the Animal Bite Resources (on the following page) as soon as possible.

## What do I do with the offending animal?

- Locate the animal as soon as possible.
- If domestic, obtain owner's name, address, and phone number.
- If stray or wild, locate and capture if possible to be tested for rabies; however, use caution!
- If the offending animal cannot be located, the human/animal bitten or scratched should be regarded as having been exposed to the rabies virus.
- Quarantine of the offending domestic animal may be necessary as per Wisconsin State Statute § 95.21(4).