

## If You Have Been Bitten

- Be sure to get the name and address of the animal owner and a description of the animal.
- Immediately wash the wound with soap and water to remove as much of the animal's saliva as possible.
- Avoid splashing wash-water into your eyes, nose or mouth as the virus can enter your body through these mucus membranes.
- Contact your doctor or visit the emergency department of your local hospital.



**All animal bites must be reported to the Health Unit in accordance with the Health Protection and Promotion Act of Ontario.**

## What to Do When Your Pet Has Bitten or Scratched Someone

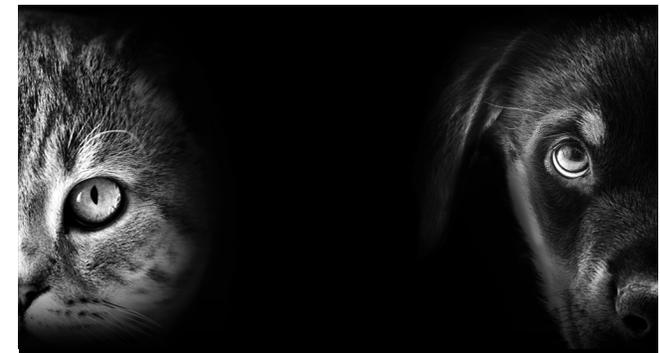
- Get your pet under control to prevent further bites or scratches from happening.
- Help the injured person by calling for help.
- **Be sure to provide your name, address and phone number to the injured person.**
- Return your pet to your home and keep them in a secure area away from people and other animals (such as in a fenced yard/kennel).
- Check your pet's medical records so you can provide information on when the pet was last vaccinated against rabies.
- **DO NOT EUTHANIZE** (put down) **YOUR PET**
- Keep your pet under your care and control.

## What to Do When Your Pet has been Bitten or Scratched by an Animal

- **CONTACT YOUR VET**

For more information call the Health Action Line  
**1-800-660-5853** or visit [www.healthunit.org](http://www.healthunit.org)

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# RABIES

**Protect Your Pets  
Protect Your Family**



## What is Rabies?

- Rabies is a preventable infectious and contagious disease of the central nervous system.
- The rabies virus attacks the central nervous system and eventually affects the brain. Rabies is almost always fatal once symptoms occur.
- It is caused by a virus that is carried in the saliva of infected warm-blooded mammals.
- In North America, raccoons, bats, foxes and skunks are significant wildlife species that spread the disease.



## How is Rabies Transmitted?

- The rabies virus is concentrated in the saliva, mucus membranes and central nervous tissue of a rabid animal.
- Humans can contract rabies by being exposed to the saliva of an infected animal. Usually, the person is bitten or scratched allowing the virus to enter the broken skin.
- The virus then moves into the nervous system. It may also enter through an open cut or mucus membrane (eyes, nose, and mouth).



## Preventing Bites and Exposure to Rabies

- Prevent exposure to the disease by staying away from all unknown animals, both wild and domestic.
- Never leave small children unattended in the presence of an animal.
- Don't disturb an animal that is eating, sleeping or caring for its young or is exhibiting signs of illness.
- Avoid running past a dog as they like to chase things.
- Never reach through a fence or enter a home unannounced as dogs may be protective of their territory and may feel you are a threat.
- Never touch a sick, injured, trapped or dead animal.
- If you must remove a dead animal wear protective gloves and wash all contaminated surfaces with soap and water.
- Do not let your pets (dogs and cats) run at large.
- Do not feed wild animals.
- **Vaccinate your cats and dogs against rabies. It is the law in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark.**