



## WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is caused by a virus that can infect any mammal, including humans. Birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish do not get rabies.



## HOW DOES RABIES SPREAD?

In infected mammals, the virus is found in saliva and can be spread through three main ways:

- Bites that break the skin
- Getting infected saliva in an open cut, sore or other wound
- Getting infected saliva in the mouth, nose or eyes

Rabies can not be transmitted through contact with the blood, urine or feces of an infected animal.

The animals that most often transmit rabies in Ontario are bats, foxes, skunks and raccoons.



## WHAT IF I'M EXPOSED TO RABIES?

If you're exposed to the saliva of a potentially rabid animal:

- Wash the bite or scratch with soap and warm water immediately (use hand sanitizer if there's no soap or water nearby)
- Call your family doctor or go to the nearest hospital for treatment right away
- Report the bite or scratch to Six Nations Public Health at 519-445-2672



## WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF RABIES?

In adults the signs of rabies will usually appear within 2-8 weeks of exposure.

Early symptoms of rabies may include:

- Numbness around the site of a bite
- Fever
- Headache
- Feeling sick

Later symptoms of rabies may include:

- Itchiness around the site of the bite (even after it's healed)
- Muscle spasms
- Fear of air gusts (aerophobia)
- Fear of water (hydrophobia)
- Difficulty breathing



## CAN YOU TREAT RABIES?

To treat a rabies infection, it is important to seek medical attention immediately following any animal bite or scratch.

If you're exposed to rabies you will receive:

- A shot containing antibodies that help destroy the rabies virus which is given at the site of the wound
- Four shots of rabies vaccine in your upper arm, given over 14 days

Post-exposure treatment is covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP).

Source/for more info visit: [www.ontario.ca/rabies](http://www.ontario.ca/rabies) or call Six Nations Public Health at 519-445-2672

# RABIES

## PREVENTION & PROTECTION





## PROTECT YOUR FAMILY & PETS FROM RABIES

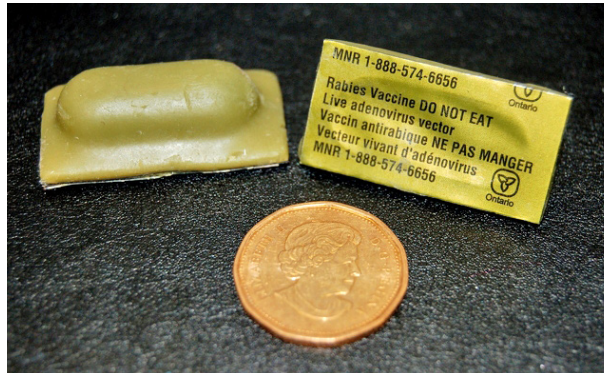
- Avoid contact with live or dead animals including raccoons, skunks, bats and any unknown dogs or cats.
- Do NOT feed, help or relocate any wildlife or keep them as pets.
- Vaccinate your pets against rabies and keep vaccinations current for dogs and cats, to protect them and help prevent the virus from spreading to other animals and people.
- Don't allow your pet to wander freely unsupervised, especially at night.
- Do NOT leave your pet's food outside as it can attract wildlife.
- If you suspect your pet already has rabies put him/her in a safe, remote area and call your veterinarian immediately. Keep the pet away from other people or animals until he/she has been assessed by a professional.
- Report ALL animal bites and scratches to Six Nations Public Health by calling 519-445-2672. Immediately wash all wounds with soap and water OR hand sanitizer if there is no soap and water nearby, and seek medical attention.
- Report sick, injured or strangely behaving wildlife to Six Nations Wildlife by calling 519-445-0330.



## AERIAL VACCINE PROGRAM

To help with the prevention and/or spread of wildlife rabies, Six Nations has and will continue taking part in a province wide aerial baiting program.

Exposure to the bait is not harmful to people or pets, however in the unlikely event that you or your pet come into contact with the vaccine contained in the bait contacting a doctor or veterinarian as a precaution is recommended.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### SIX NATIONS PUBLIC HEALTH

1769 Chiefswood Road, Ohsweken  
P: 519-445-2672

### SIX NATIONS ANIMAL CONTROL

1769 Chiefswood Road, Ohsweken  
P: 519-445-2947 After Hours: 519-445-4818

### SIX NATIONS WILDLIFE OFFICE

2676 Fourth Line, Ohsweken  
P: 519-445-0330

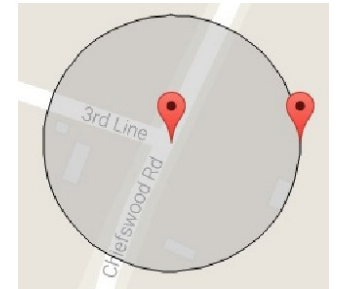
[www.sixnations.ca](http://www.sixnations.ca)



## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) has notified Six Nations Wildlife Program and Animal Control Services that two raccoons originating from the Grand River Territory have tested positive for rabies.

The first specimen was collected as roadkill by Six Nations Animal Control Services along Chiefswood Road and Third Line. It is unknown if any local animals



came in contact with a rabid raccoon. Six Nations Police assisted Animal Control with safe removal of the second specimen from a barn located on Third Line near Tuscarora Road.

To help with prevention and/or spread of wildlife rabies, Six Nations has and will continue taking part in a province wide aerial baiting program. Six Nations Animal Control Services will also be scheduling Rabies Clinics. Community members who wish to have their pets vaccinated before or after the clinics can also visit local veterinarians in surrounding communities (fees will vary).

For more information on the rabies virus and how you can protect your family and pets call Six Nations Public Health at 519-445-2672. You can also visit [www.snhs.ca/hpnsRabiesBrochureMarch3.pdf](http://www.snhs.ca/hpnsRabiesBrochureMarch3.pdf) or [www.ontario.ca/rabies](http://www.ontario.ca/rabies). If you are in need of Animal Control Services call 519-445-2947 OR for after-hours services call 519-445-4818.