



Some Facts about Rabies and Bats

- Bats, skunks, foxes, raccoons, bobcats and coyotes all can transmit rabies. However, most cases of rabies are found in bats. In 2015, 11% of bats tested in Nevada were positive for rabies.
- Bats are typically nocturnal. They are the only mammal that can fly under their own power.
- Bats emerge at dusk to feed on insects, primarily moths and beetles.
- If a bat is active during daylight hours it may be infected with rabies. If you see a bat flying during the day, contact the Washoe County Health District Vector-borne Disease Program at **328-2434**.
- Avoid all contact with bats. Do not handle sick, injured, or dead animals. Handling a bat may precipitate rabies prophylaxis (several anti-rabies injections/shots) which is not a pleasant or inexpensive experience. If a person or their pet should come into contact with a bat it should be kept for rabies testing. The bat should be bagged and stored in a disposable cooler on ice until it can be submitted for testing. Do not freeze the bat.
- The rabies virus is transmitted in the infected animal's saliva through biting a person or another animal.
- Rabies is fatal. If the virus is allowed to develop, the bite of a bat is lethal if the bat has the rabies virus.
- Unvaccinated pets that come in contact with infected animals can develop rabies.
- Protect your pets against rabies by staying current on rabies vaccinations. Rabies vaccine should be given to your pets every one to three years.
- Pets must be vaccinated before exposure to rabies virus to be protected.
- If you are bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, wash the wound with soap and water and call your physician immediately.
- For public, report the bite to the Washoe County Health District Vector-borne Disease Program at 328-2434 and Washoe County Regional Animal Services at 322-3647. For healthcare providers seeing a patient with animal bite, report the bite to the Washoe County Health District Communicable Disease Program at 328-2447.
- Washoe County Regional Animal Services offers low cost vaccination clinics on the first Tuesday of every month at 2825 Longley Lane in Reno 3pm-7pm. Visit www.washoeanimals.com Keep your pet healthy!