

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

# RABIES

## WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a fatal but preventable viral disease. It can spread to people and pets if they are bitten or scratched by a rabid animal. In the United States, **rabies is mostly found in wild animals like bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes.**



## BE CAUTIOUS.

1. LEAVE WILDLIFE ALONE!
2. Wash ALL bites and scratches immediately with water and soap.
3. Know the risks: **bats and skunks** are most commonly positive in our area for rabies.

## TAKE ACTION!

**Remember that rabies is a medical urgency but not an emergency.**

If you've been in contact with any wildlife or unfamiliar animals, particularly if you've been bitten or scratched, you should talk with a healthcare or public health professional to determine your risk for rabies or other illnesses.



## BE PREPARED.

**Domesticated animals can get rabies too!**

Keep your pets up to date on their rabies vaccine, and be aware of unknown animals like neighborhood cats and other unknown domesticated animals.



**PUBLIC HEALTH**  
CITY OF ABILENE TEXAS