

Be Rabies Aware

Rabies is a serious disease caused by a virus. People and animals can become infected with the virus through bites, licks or scratches by an animal infected with rabies. The rabies virus, if left untreated, can be fatal. Although foxes, skunks, racoons and bats are the most common sources of rabies, dogs, cats and livestock can also get the virus.

To help prevent rabies in humans and pets you can take the following measures:

1. Report any stray or wild animals in the schoolyard to the local animal control for pick up.
2. Advise children to stay away from any unfamiliar animals.
3. Do not touch any dead animals, including bats, or any animal you suspect has rabies.
4. Wear heavy gloves for protection if you must touch any dead animals, discard the gloves after use and thoroughly wash your hands. Call animal control to have the animal picked up.

If an animal bites or scratches a staff member or children on your premises:

- wash the wound area thoroughly with soap and water
- apply an antiseptic
- contact a family member to take the child to a doctor
- call the York Region Health Services Department and give details of the biting or scratching incident

It is mandatory that all animal bites or scratches be reported to the Health Department.

**For more information or to report a bite, please call:
York Region Health Services
Health Connection at 1-800-361-5653**