



# Rabies

## Public Health's role in protecting your family and pets.

When a person is bitten or scratched by an animal

### If the animal is known and can be located:

- The animal will be confined (usually inside the home) for 10 days to ensure they display no signs of sickness
- We will **NOT** remove a healthy animal from the owner
- After 10 days, the health inspector will return and release the animal if it is healthy
- The person who was bitten or scratched is then notified that there is no risk of rabies

### If the animal cannot be located:

A health inspector will work with the victim and a doctor to assess whether or not a vaccination is needed

[niagararegion.ca/health](http://niagararegion.ca/health) 905-688-8248 ext. 7590

Niagara  Region

## Treatment:

- If an animal tests positive for rabies, or if an animal cannot be tested, a vaccine will be given to prevent rabies from developing
- If needed, vaccine should be given soon after exposure

**Rabies can be prevented if the person bitten or scratched gets treatment quickly**

## Prevention:

- Keep pets in fenced yard or on a leash outside the home
- Do not approach sick, wounded or animals you do not know
- Make sure pets have current rabies shots

## How the rabies virus travels:



- Spread through infected animal's saliva
- Occurs mainly in bats, skunks, foxes, and racoons who can infect domestic dogs, cats and livestock



- Rabid animal bites or scratches a person



- Virus infects central nervous system
- Virus travels to nerves, multiplies in other organs



- Brain becomes inflamed
- Death can occur