

## If YOU are a POLICEMAN. . .

1. DON'T. . . Decide on your own that an animal DOES or DOES NOT have Rabies.
2. DON'T. . . Kill any domestic animal unless there is absolutely no safe way to capture it.
3. DON'T. . . Shoot the animal in the head.



1. DO. . . Capture or kill all wild animals that have bitten and contact Environmental Health for authorization for laboratory examination at the Public Health Branch Laboratory.
2. DO. . . Ask to see proof of current vaccination when a pet dog or cat has bitten a person.
3. DO. . . Report all animal bites.
4. DO. . . Capture and confine pet animals suspected of biting to facilitate identification of the biting animal.

## If YOU are a VETERINARIAN. . .

1. DON'T. . . Give Rabies vaccine to an animal which has bitten a person until the recommended observation period has expired.



1. DO. . . Emphasize that the person bitten should consult his physician immediately.
2. DO. . . Require the owner to sign an euthanasia form if you are asked to euthanize an animal. If it has bitten someone in the last 10 days, receive permission to obtain a brain tissue specimen for laboratory examination.
3. DO. . . Recommend Rabies vaccination as soon as the observation period is over if the animal does not have a current Rabies vaccination.
4. DO. . . Be familiar with the latest recommendations of the  
(A) United States Public Health Service  
(B) Your local laws



“AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT. The County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in services, programs, activities, or employment. Persons with disabilities requiring special assistance or accommodation may contact the Director of Environmental Health at (707) 445-6215.”

## Humboldt County Division of Environmental Health

Phone: (707) 445-6215 Fax: (707) 441-5699  
[envhealth@co.humboldt.ca.us](mailto:envhealth@co.humboldt.ca.us)

### “ONCE BITTEN . . . !”



**Advice about what should be done after an animal bite occurs, together with a resume of truths about RABIES . . .**



**Humboldt County Sheriff's Department  
Animal Control Division**

980 Lycoming Avenue  
McKinleyville, CA 95519

Tel. (707) 840-9132 Fax. (707) 840-9185

# Truths About Rabies . . .

Rabies is usually a fatal disease that can affect all mammals...including humans.

The Rabies virus is transmitted from animals to humans through the saliva of a rabid animal.

The majority of Rabies cases occur in skunks, bats, and foxes, and occasionally dogs, cats, farm animals, and other wildlife.

Rabies is decreasing as a human disease because of Rabies vaccination for pets and public education about the problem. Part of being a responsible pet owner is keeping Rabies immunization current.

Wild animals make poor pets and are a potential Rabies threat to their owners and others.



## **Rabies is controlled by these cardinal points:**

- Limit the possibility of exposure. This is done by limiting movement and confinement of animals to owner's property and elimination of strays. No Exposure – No Rabies!!
- Vaccinate dogs and cats and selected livestock. If an animal becomes exposed, then immunity must be high to prevent infection.
- Control of wildlife Rabies—there is little that can be done, making the first two points most important.

## **If YOU have been bitten... or anyone in your family has been bitten by an animal (\*)...**

1. DON'T . . . Panic
2. DON'T . . . Ignore It
3. DON'T . . . Kill the animal unless it is wild or cannot be captured alive and therefore might endanger others.
4. DON'T . . . Shoot the animal in the head.



1. DO...Try to have the animal detained or at least identified before it runs away.
2. DO...Thoroughly wash the wound with soap and lots of water. Give first-aid as with any puncture wound.
3. DO... Call your physician immediately. Explain the circumstances leading to the bite and follow the advice given.
4. DO... Report the bite to the public health and law enforcement officials.

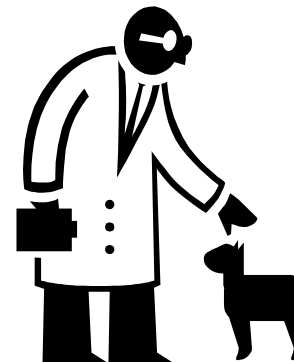
(\*) Any mammal, especially skunks, bats, and foxes, and raccoons, dogs, cats, etc., including farm animals

## **If YOU own the animal which did the BITING. . .**

1. DON'T... Kill the animal or allow it to be euthanized unless so advised by public health authorities or a veterinarian.
2. DON'T. . . Let the animal stray or give it away. It must be available for observation.



1. DO . . . Notify your local law enforcement and public health officials about the bite.
2. DO . . . Confine the animal and observe it closely. Report any illness or unusual behavior promptly to your veterinarian.
3. DO . . . Check with your veterinarian to see if your animal has a current Rabies vaccination.
4. DO . . . Consult your veterinarian about having your animal vaccinated for Rabies if it is not current, AFTER the recommended observation period.



## **Your Family PHYSICIAN. . .**

WILL. . . Recommend anti-rabies treatment, if indicated.

WILL. . . Treat the person bitten for effects of the bite other than the risk of Rabies.