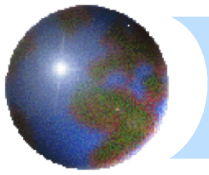


Rabies: What kids need to know!

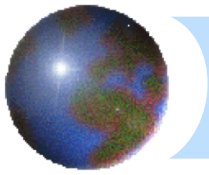
Slides provided by:

**Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Bureau of Communicable Disease Control
Division of Epidemiology and Immunization**



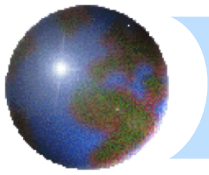
What is Rabies?

- ✚ Rabies is a dangerous disease caused by a virus.
- ✚ Around the world, rabies kills 50,000 people and millions of animals each year.

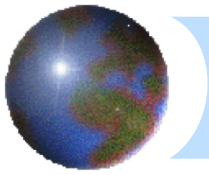


Any mammal can get rabies.

- ✚ Raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats
- ✚ Dogs, cats, cattle and ferrets
- ✚ Humans

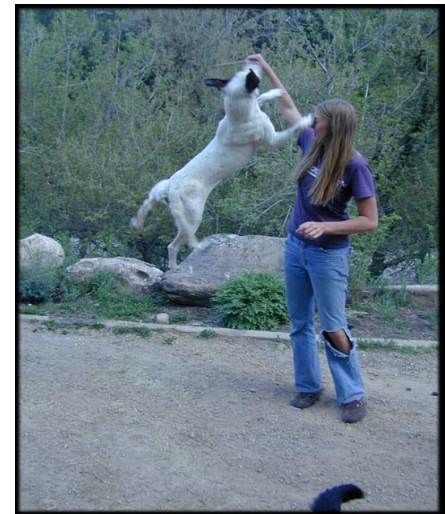


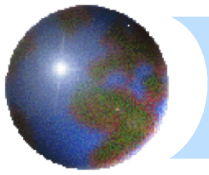
☹️ If a person or
animal gets rabies, they
will almost always die
from it. ☹️



How do you get rabies?

People and animals can only get rabies if they are bitten or scratched by an animal that already has rabies. Their saliva carries the rabies virus, even if the animal is dead.

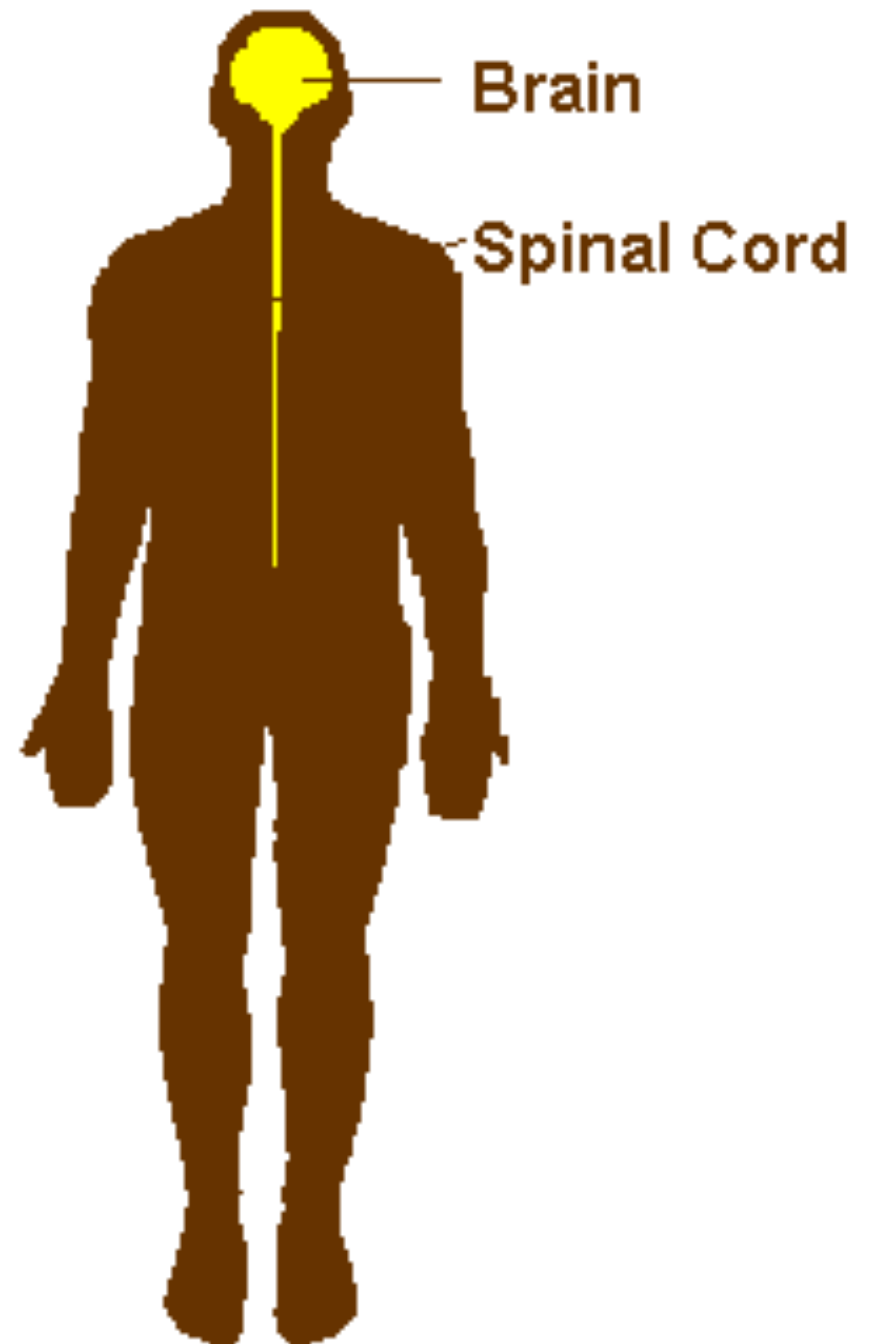


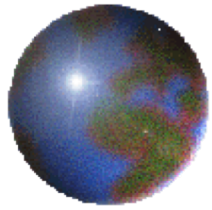


How does rabies make you sick?

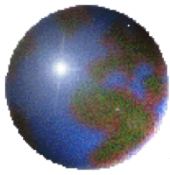
- ✚ Once inside the body, the virus travels along the nerves.
- ✚ Its main target is the the brain and spinal cord.





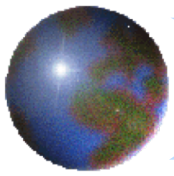


**Animals that can give
you rabies**



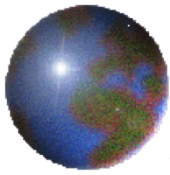
Raccoons





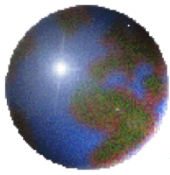
Bats





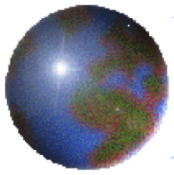
Foxes





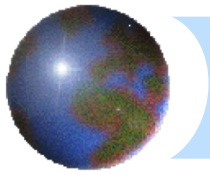
Skunks





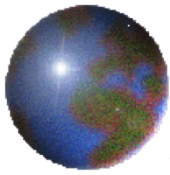
Ground Hogs



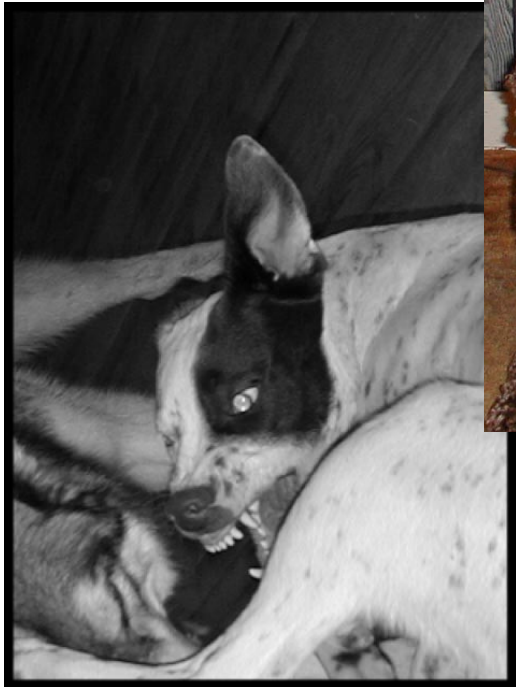


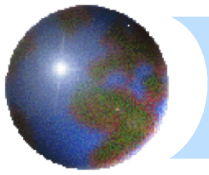
Cats - especially stray and unvaccinated





Dogs - especially stray & unvaccinated

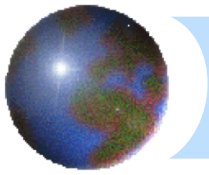




Ferrets

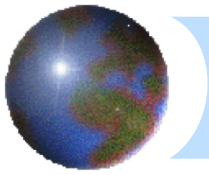
- ✚ Many people have ferrets as pets.
- ✚ They should be vaccinated for rabies.





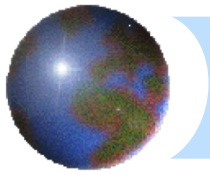
Mammals that are *less likely* to carry rabies





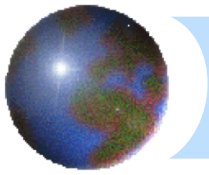
Animals that don't carry rabies





Signs of rabies in animals can include:

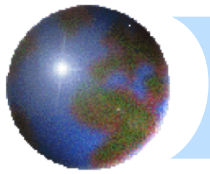
- ✚ Unusual behavior
 - ✚ Wild animals that appear friendly
 - ✚ Nocturnal animals active during the day
- ✚ An increase in drool or saliva
- ✚ Animals that act very sick or mean
- ✚ Animals that have difficulty moving or are dead



The only way to tell

- ✚ In the laboratory
- ✚ Lab scientists test the brain of a dead animal for rabies.





Rabies in Massachusetts 2003

**207 Wild animals diagnosed
with rabies**

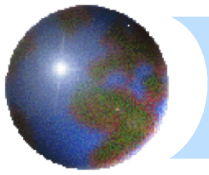
- ✚ 86 Skunks
- ✚ 81 Raccoons
- ✚ 23 Bats
- ✚ 13 Foxes
- ✚ 4 Other wild animals

AND

8 Domestic Animals

6 cats

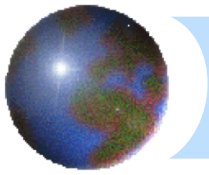
2 dogs



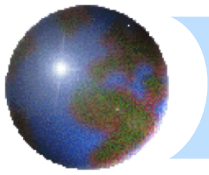
Can rabies be prevented?

Yes!

- ✚ Vaccines (shots) against Rabies
- ✚ Wash bite wounds and scratches thoroughly
- ✚ Stay away from strays

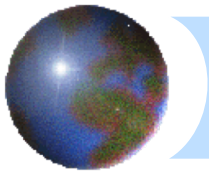


**The best way to prevent rabies
is to make sure your pets are
vaccinated against rabies!!**



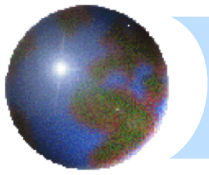
Protect your pets

- ✚ Vaccinate your pet dog, cat, or ferret
- ✚ Always leash your dog.
- ✚ Tell an adult if you see a wild or stray animal acting strangely.
- ✚ If your pet gets bitten by an animal, call your vet right away.
- ✚ Get your pets spayed or neutered.



Protect yourself

- Never touch an unfamiliar or wild animal.
- Always ask permission to touch someone else's pet.
- Call an animal control officer if you find a sick or hurt animal.
- Keep trash cans closed.
- Put all pet food away.

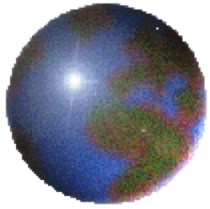


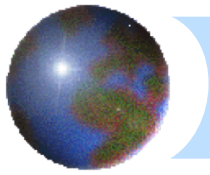
If you are bitten or scratched



- ✚ Tell an adult immediately
- ✚ Wash the wound out with soap and water
- ✚ Call your doctor right away

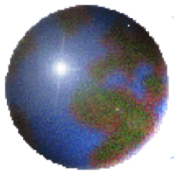
Rabies Quiz





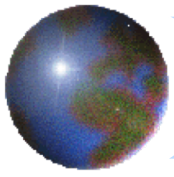
Which of these can carry rabies?





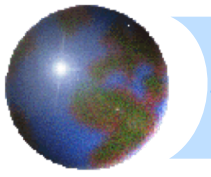
Dogs?





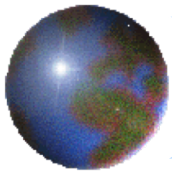
Raccoons?





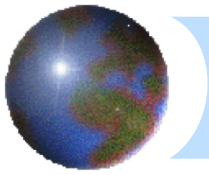
Snakes?





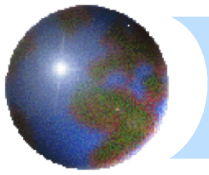
Cats?





Rabbit? (this one is tricky)

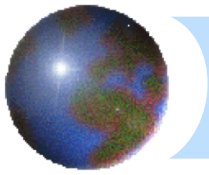




True or False?

**Rabies is
caused by
a virus.**

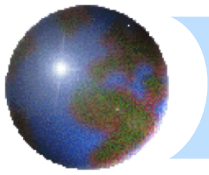
TRUE



True or False?

**A bite from a
snake can give
you rabies.**

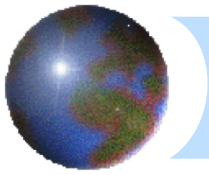
FALSE



True or False?

**The rabies
virus affects
the nervous
system.**

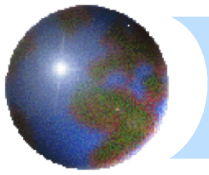
TRUE



True or False?

**If you are
bitten by any
animal, you
should clean the
wound right
away.**

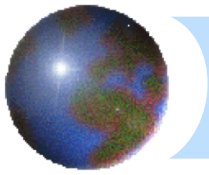
TRUE



True or False?

**People can get
rabies from the
saliva of an
animal with
rabies.**

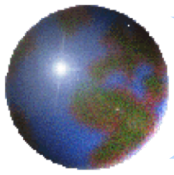
TRUE



True or False?

**You will always
know if you are
bitten by a bat,
even if you are
asleep.**

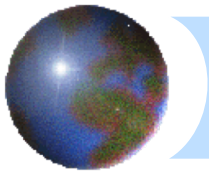
FALSE



True or False?

**If you are
bitten by a
mouse, you
should always
receive the
rabies vaccine.**

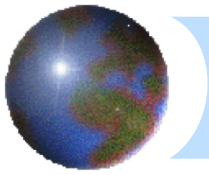
FALSE



The best way to protect yourself from rabies is:

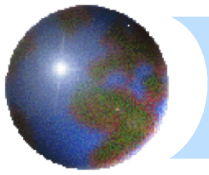
- A. Avoid animals not known to you.
- B. Vaccinate your pets.
- C. Report animals with strange behavior.
- D. Maintain your property and keep trash properly contained.

ALL OF THE ABOVE



**In 2003 in Massachusetts,
which species had the highest
number of rabies cases?**



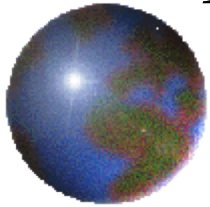


Watch out for rabies

- Stay away from strays and wild animals
- If you see strays or wild animals, tell an adult.
- If you are ever bitten or scratched by an animal, tell an adult.
- Wash your cut with soap and water for 10 minutes.



To learn more about Rabies



Massachusetts Department of Public Health:
www.mass.gov/dph click on "R" for Rabies!



Center for Disease and Prevention:
www.cdc.gov