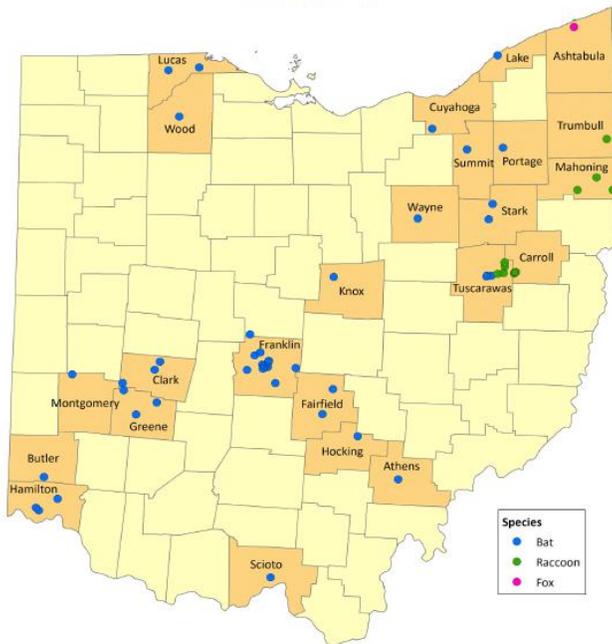


RABIES

What do I need to know about Rabies?

Rabies is a virus that attacks the brain and nervous system. It can infect many mammals but is seen mostly in bats, skunks, and raccoons and other wild animals. People can get the disease if bitten by an animal infected with rabies. Once a person or animal becomes sick with rabies, they most likely die. If someone is exposed to rabies through a bite, rabies can be treated by getting post exposure rabies shots if they seek treatment soon after the bite.

Animal Rabies Incidence by Species, Ohio, 2018



Map provided by Ohio Department of Health Zoonotic Disease Program

What should I do if I get bitten by an animal?

- 1) Wash the wound with lots of soap and water right away.
- 2) See your Doctor, urgent care, or ER to get wound treated.
- 3) Call or report the bite to the health department so RCHD can investigate the bite to see if you were exposed to Rabies.
- 4) Capture the animal, if you can do it safely, or get the name and address of the animal's owner if it is a pet.

What should I do if the biting animal dies?

- 1) Wear gloves or use a shovel to move the animal. Avoid contact with the animal with your hands if possible.
- 2) Put the animal's body in a heavy-duty plastic bag and place it in a cold place away from people or other animals.
- 3) Clean the area with one-part bleach to ten parts water.
- 4) Call your local health department to have the animal tested for rabies.

Who is required to report animal bites to the health district?

- Ohio regulations require all health care providers, medical doctors, veterinarians, and individuals knowledgeable of an animal bite must to report the bite incident to the health district **within 24 hours** of the bite. Details about Reporting Animal Bites is on the 2nd Page.
- Please include how and where the bite occurred, description of the animal, if the animal is a pet, include owners address and contact, and where the animal was last seen.

Ross County



What you should know about:

RABIES

How do I report an animal bite / possible rabies exposure to the health department?

Animal bites can be reported in multiple ways to the health district:

- **Call** health district 740-775-1158.
- **Filling out the Rabies / Animal Bite Reporting Form** and

fax form to: 740-779-9615

or

email the form to:

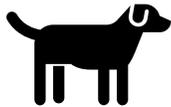
rabies@rosscountyhealth.com

Where can I find the Rabies / Animal Bite Reporting Form or information about rabies and animal bites?

The form can be downloaded from our website. To learn more, go to

rosscountyhealth.org/rabies

How does the health district investigate animal bites and rabies exposures?



For Domestic Pets such as dogs, cats, and ferrets:

1. Health district quarantines the pet at the owner's home for 10 days.
2. Health district staff observe animal for signs of rabies over the 10-day period.
3. Health district releases animal from quarantine after 10 days if the pet shows no signs of rabies and is up to date on its rabies vaccinations.
4. Health districts contacts animal bite victim upon completion of the investigation to provide status of investigation findings and if post exposure rabies treatment is necessary if animal shows signs of rabies, upon request. (See reporting form.)



For wild animals such as bats, raccoons, or skunks:

If the animal can be safely captured:

1. Health district will have the animal tested for rabies if the animal can be safely captured or if found dead.
2. Health district sends the animal to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory to be tested for rabies.
3. Health district will notify the person bitten results of the laboratory testing upon receipt of the lab results.
4. Person bitten will be informed if exposed to rabies to begin post exposure treatment.

If the animal cannot be safely captured, or is a stray animal:

1. Health district will contact the bite victim to advise the bite victim to seek medical treatment for a possible rabies exposure to receive rabies post exposure shots.