

IF YOUR PET HAS BITTEN SOMEONE

- ◆ Tell the person bitten to see a doctor immediately and to follow the advice on the previous pages. Report the bite to the local health department. If your pet is a dog, cat, or ferret they will probably have you confine the animal and watch it closely for 10 days. Report any illness or unusual behavior to your local health department and veterinarian immediately.



- ◆ Don't let the animal stray, and don't give the animal away. It must be available for observation by public health authorities.
- ◆ Don't kill your pet or allow it to be killed unless you have been instructed to do so by the public health authorities.
- ◆ **After** the recommended observation period, have your pet vaccinated for rabies if it does not have a current rabies vaccination.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP CONTROL RABIES

- ◆ Have your veterinarian vaccinate your dogs, cats, ferrets, and selected livestock. Keep the vaccinations up-to-date.
- ◆ If your pet is attacked or bitten by a wild animal, report it to the local health or animal control authorities. Be sure your vaccinated dog, cat, or ferret receives a booster vaccination.
- ◆ Limit the possibility of exposure by keeping your animals on your property. Don't let pets roam free. Also, don't leave garbage or pet food outside. It may attract wild or stray animals.
- ◆ Remember . . . wild animals should not be kept as pets. They are a potential rabies threat to their owners and to others. Enjoy all wild animals from a distance, **even if they seem friendly**. A rabid animal sometimes acts tame. If you see an animal acting strangely, report it to the city or county animal control department. **Don't go near it yourself.**
- ◆ Remember, wildlife is a part of our natural heritage. Enjoy it, respect it ... at a distance for the benefit of all concerned.
- ◆ For more information, contact your local health department or your local animal control:

Fairfax County Health Department
In cooperation with the Virginia Department of Health

Health Department
703-246-2433 TTY 711
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hd
for health information

Animal Control
703-691-2131 TTY 711
For animal exposures or bites

Rabies and Animal Bites



What You Should Know and What You Should Do