

ANIMAL BITE?

TAKE ACTION

1. Tell a staff member and immediately.



2. Scrub the wounds with soap and running water for 5 to 10 minutes.



3. Go to your medical provider. Your doctor will check to see if you need rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.



4. Report the animal bite to the Fairfax County Police Department Animal Protection Services at 703-691-2131, TTY 711.



They will ask for a complete description of the biting animal including location of the bite and current location of the animal, (as well as size, color, unique color patterns, and if the animal was wearing a collar, etc.) Based on your information, Animal Protection Services will investigate the event and help confine or determine the next steps for the biting animal.



ANIMAL BITES CAN HAPPEN.
Take action to avoid getting sick.



WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a disease caused by a virus that is nearly 100 percent fatal in mammals, including humans. The virus is present in some wild animals and can be spread to unvaccinated pets, livestock, and humans. The rabies virus is found in the saliva and central nervous tissue of an infected animal. The virus is usually spread through a bite or scratch, but also can be passed along when an infected animal's saliva or central nervous tissue enters an open wound, mouth, nose or eyes of another mammal.

RABIES IN ANIMALS

ONLY MAMMALS CAN GET RABIES. Birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians cannot get rabies. The most frequently reported wild animals with rabies in Fairfax are raccoons, foxes, skunks and bats. Rabbits, squirrels, rats and mice rarely get rabies. Cats are the most common domestic animal and cows are the most common livestock animal diagnosed with rabies.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/rabies