



RABIES

What to do if you find a wild animal in your home / property

What types of wild animals get rabies?

Any mammal can get rabies. The most common wild animals that could carry rabies are **raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes** and **coyotes**. Domestic animals can also carry rabies; these include **cats, cattle, and dogs**.

How can I tell if an animal has rabies?

Rabies can be confirmed only in a laboratory. You cannot tell if a bat or other wild animal has rabies just by looking at it. However, any bat that is active by day, is found in a place where bats are not usually seen (for example in rooms in your home), or is unable to fly, is more likely than others to be rabid.

What should I do if I come in contact with a wild animal that may have rabies?

- If a wild animal bites you – or if infectious material (such as saliva) from an animal gets into your eyes, nose, mouth, or a wound – wash the affected area very well with soap and water and get medical attention immediately!
- Bats have small teeth that may leave marks that are not easily seen, there are situations in which you should seek medical advice even in the absence of an obvious bite. For example, if you awaken and find a bat in your room, see a bat in the room with an unattended child, or see a bat near someone who is mentally impaired or intoxicated, seek medical advice and have the bat tested. **Never handle a bat!!**

What should I do if I find a wild animal in my home / property?

- If you see an animal in your home and **you are sure no human or pet has been exposed to it**, confine the animal to a room by closing all doors and windows leading out of the room except those to the outside to encourage the animal to leave on its own.
- If the animal does not leave or if you are not sure if a human or pet has been exposed to the animal, **leave the animal alone** and contact Imperial County Animal Control for assistance at (760) 339-6291.

The following are things people can do to protect their pets from rabies:

- Individuals should visit their veterinarian with their pet on a regular basis and keep rabies vaccinations up-to-date for all cats, and dogs.
- People should maintain control of their pets by keeping cats indoors and keeping dogs under direct supervision.
- Pets should be spayed or neutered to help reduce the number of unwanted pets that may not be properly cared for or vaccinated regularly.
- People should contact Imperial County Animal Control to remove all stray and wild animals from their neighborhood since these animals may be unvaccinated or ill.

For more information about rabies, please contact:
Imperial County Public Health Department, Field Nursing
Tel: (760) 482-4451 • Fax: (760) 482-4738

or

To report a problem with an animal please contact:
Imperial County Animal Control
Tel: (760) 339-6291