

What to do if you suspect rabies?

Rabies is a notifiable disease. Any person who suspects an animal has been exposed to rabies must contact the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine immediately via one of the contacts below:

- Your local Regional Veterinary Office (during office hours)
- National Disease Emergency Hotline on **01 492 8026** (outside office hours)

What happens if a rabid animal is suspected in Ireland?

- The affected animal must be euthanised to reduce the risk of further spread and for rabies testing sample collection
- All in-contact humans must be traced Advice will be provided by health services
- All in-contact animals must be traced and their level of risk assessed
- Animals considered of *high risk of exposure* (e.g. bitten by suspect animal) must be placed in isolation immediately

In the event of rabies outbreak in Ireland

- Have your pet vaccinated against rabies
- Avoid contact with stray or unknown animals and wildlife
- While outside keep your dog on a leash
- Report any animals acting suspiciously immediately
- Follow all instructions provided via press and media to help prevent exposure to rabies

What to do if you are bitten by a dog?

- Thoroughly wash the wound with soap and running water for 15 minutes



- Contact your GP or go to hospital A&E
- Isolate the dog that bit you (or remember what the dog looks like)
- Contact your local Dog Warden or An Garda Síochána
- See earlier section if rabies is suspected: What to do if you suspect rabies?

Further information

In the event of an outbreak, further information will be provided on the Department of Agriculture's website at:

www.gov.ie/animalrabies



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine



RABIES

Information Leaflet

For Pet Owners

What is Rabies?

- Rabies is a viral disease that is present in over 150 countries worldwide, and is endemic in wildlife in some European countries including Poland, Ukraine, Moldova and Turkey. It is not present in Ireland
- The virus is transmitted in saliva and can cause inflammation of the brain and death in humans and animals
- Animals can carry the Rabies virus without symptoms for months or even years, but once clinical signs appear almost 100% of cases are fatal
- Each year more than 59,000 people die from the disease mainly in Africa and Asia
- Rabies is a vaccine preventable disease
- Vaccinating animals prevents rabies in humans

What animals are affected by Rabies?

Rabies primarily affects mammals. This includes humans and many types of pets including dogs, cats and ferrets and wildlife such as foxes and bats. Livestock can also become infected. Birds, snakes and fish are not affected.

How is Rabies transmitted?

Humans or pets can become infected by close contact with infected saliva via bites or scratches from rabid animals.

Common clinical signs of Rabies

Early signs may include:

- Behaviour changes
 - Friendly animals may become cautious
 - Shy animals may become bold
- Dogs may excessively seek attention

Early signs may be followed by:

- Increased aggression -dogs may attack objects, other animals or handlers
- Eyes may have a 'staring' expression
- Drooping lower jaw and excessive saliva production
- Excessive itching
- Excessive thirst

Final stages of disease may include:

- Weak muscles, especially legs and tail
- Difficulty swallowing
- Drooping eyelids
- Saliva frothing at the mouth
- General paralysis, convulsions and coma before death within 3-8 days

Measures that you can take to protect your pets from Rabies

Rabies vaccination is currently considered the best method of protecting your pets.

Ukraine crisis

Special Arrangements for Ukraine and EU citizens in Russia/Спеціальні заходи для людей, які прибувають з домашніми тваринами з України, а також для громадян ЄС, які прибувають з Росії

For information on bringing pets into Ireland please see:

www.gov.ie/pettravel

