

RABIES FACT SHEET

- Rabies is a virus capable of infecting any warm-blooded animal
- This disease mainly affects the brain and nervous system
- Once established in a pet or human, Rabies is always fatal
- Rabies is seen more often in bats, skunks, raccoons, and foxes
- Some symptoms of rabies are: temperament change, unprovoked attacks, lack of coordination, loss of balance, appearance of choking, and staggering
- WV State Law requires dogs and cats to be vaccinated against rabies
- Pets need to be vaccinated against rabies every three years to keep vaccinations current
- If your pet gets bitten, call the health department and your veterinarian immediately
- Some precautions to follow: get pets vaccinated, keep vaccinations current, avoid wild animals, watch for strange acting wildlife

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