

## Rabies

### 60 Second Radio Spot

Some wild animals may look cute and cuddly but that doesn't make it safe to feed or pet them.

Many wild animals such as raccoons, foxes, bats, and skunks can carry a serious virus called rabies and if you were bitten by an animal with rabies you could be infected too. Rabies is almost always fatal to people unless treated with a series of five or more shots.

Bites from wild animals are common this time of year, but by taking a few simple precautions you can protect your pets, your family and yourself.

Make sure YOUR pets get and stay vaccinated against rabies, by their veterinarian.

Do not allow your pets to run free. If pets are fenced in or on a leash there is less chance they will come in contact with rabid animals.

Make sure your garbage is securely covered. Open garbage attracts wild and stray animals.

Don't feed your pets outside. This will cause strays and wild animals to make your home a permanent residence.

Enjoy wild animals from a distance and teach children never to handle unfamiliar animals-even if they seem friendly!

The good news is rabies is preventable by taking these steps! But, you must do your part in the fight against rabies.

For more information visit [EscambiaHealth.com](http://EscambiaHealth.com)

Tradition- Service- Leadership  
The Escambia County Health Department  
Protecting You Since 1821