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## What is rabies?

- Virus that infects the brain of humans, domestic and wild animals

## What are the symptoms of rabies?

- Fever
- Headache
- Tiredness
- General anxiety/worry
- Trouble swallowing
- Paralysis
- Seizure
- Coma
- Death (nearly 100% of cases)

## How does it spread?

- Bite or scratch from an infected animal, most commonly skunks, raccoons, foxes, and bats
- Symptoms take several weeks, months, or up to a year after exposure, depends on wound size, distance from brain, amount of virus and amount of protective clothing

## How can rabies be prevented?

- Have a veterinarian vaccinate cats and dogs
- Do not handle stray or wild animals; call Genesee County Animal Control at 810-732-1660

## What to do if bitten?

- Clean the wound immediately with soap and warm water; most effective prevention method
- Call your doctor, clinic, or Genesee County Health Department for recommendations
- Call Genesee County Animal Control at 810-732-1660 to assist in capture, quarantine and testing of animal
  - Healthy dogs/cats: patient observed for ten days for signs of illness
  - Wild/unwanted animals: animal humanely destroyed and brain tissue sent for immediate testing

## What information is needed before treatment?

- Kind of animal
- Wild, domestic (was it vaccinated?), or stray
- Was the skin broken from the bite? To what extent? Was there bleeding from the wound?

## What is the treatment for rabies?

- Treatment only recommended for wild animal bites
- Rabies Immune Globulin containing antibodies to fight the virus AND rabies vaccine – four doses given over two weeks helps you develop your own antibodies to the rabies virus

## Should an infected individual be isolated?

- No.

## If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017