

# Rabies-Kent County

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of all mammals that is transmitted by the bite of a rabid animal. Rabies is nearly always fatal once symptoms appear. The virus attacks the nervous system and affects the brain and spinal cord. In Maryland, rabies is most frequently found in wildlife, most commonly raccoons, foxes, skunks, and bats. Domestic animals, including livestock, are also at risk, and cats are the most frequently identified rabid domestic animal.

## ***To Prevent Rabies:***

- Vaccinate your dogs, cats and ferrets regularly. Do not let pets roam free.
- Enjoy wildlife from a distance. Teach children to stay away from animals they don't know.
- Cover garbage cans securely and do not leave pet food outside.
- Prevent bats from entering your home.
- Report bites and other animal exposures to Kent County Health Department, 410-778-1361, or Kent County Animal Control, 410-708-5006

CDC Kids and Rabies Website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/rabiesandkids/facts.html>

Maryland Department of Health Rabies Website:

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/OIDEOR/CZVBD/Pages/rabies.aspx>

Maryland Department of Health Rabies Fact Sheet:

<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/rabies.aspx>

## **Kent County - Rabid Animals**

**August 2010** – Cow, *positive for rabies*, Airy Hill Road, Chestertown, **Human Exposure**

**December 2010** - Feral cat, *positive for rabies* – Chestertown, **No Human Exposure**

**March 2011**- Bat, *positive for rabies*, Belchester Road, **Human Exposure (Unprovoked Attack)**  
Victim was bitten while sleeping, woke up and found bat.

**February 2015** – Horse, *positive for rabies*, Worton, **Human Exposure**

**April 2015** – Bat, *positive for rabies*, Chestertown, **Human Exposure**

**November 2015** – Raccoon, *positive for rabies*, Cannon Street, Chestertown, **No Human Exposure**

**September 2016** – Cat, *positive for rabies*, Big Woods Road, **Human Exposure (Unprovoked Attack)**  
Cat attacked victim on lawn mower while cutting grass. Owners were feeding 30 unvaccinated cats.

**March 2017** – Raccoon, *positive for rabies*, Turners Point Road, 3 Dogs encountered rabid raccoon  
3 dogs were up to date with rabies vaccine, Dogs received Rabies booster, **No Human Exposure**

**June 2018** - Bat, *positive for rabies*, Millington, Cat killed bat in apartment, **No Human Exposure**

**August 2018** - Fox, *positive for rabies*, Fairlee, Fox jumped into pen with 14 puppies after midnight.  
4 exposed puppies were euthanized, Remaining 10 were quarantined for 4 months, **No Human Exposure**

**March 2019** - Raccoon, *positive for rabies*, Raccoon “skunk odor” had contact with owner’s dogs.  
Raccoon had been in fight prior to encounter with dogs, **No Human Exposure**