



City of New Bern

FOUNDED 1710

New Bern, North Carolina

Three Centuries of North Carolina Heritage

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NEW BERN POLICE FACTS ABOUT RABIES

NOTE!!!

North Carolina State Law requires all animals over 4 months of age **MUST** have current rabies vaccinations.

RABIES:

- Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system.
- Mainly wild animals carry rabies. Those affected most commonly are raccoons, skunks, bats and foxes. Domestic animals such as dogs, cats and farm animals can easily contract rabies from wild or stray animals if they haven't had a preventative rabies shot.
- The rabies virus lives in saliva and brain tissue of infected animals.
- The virus infects mammals only. Warm-blooded animals (those which nurse their young) such as pets, livestock and humans are at risk.
- The virus is spread mainly through bites from infected animals, but it can spread in many other ways. Rabies can be passed by scratches from an infected animal or saliva that comes in contact with open wounds or breaks in the skin.

SIGNS YOUR PET HAS BEEN EXPOSED TO RABIES :

- Daytime activity in animals normally active at night
- Staggering, weakness and paralysis
- A change in sound of the animal's voice
- Inability or reluctance to eat or drink
- Excessive Drooling
- Convulsions or Frothing at the mouth

WHAT TO DO IF A HUMAN IS EXPOSED TO RABIES:

If you think you have been bitten, scratched or come into contact with a rabid animal it is important to act quickly to protect yourself against contracting the disease.

- Wash the wound thoroughly in warm, soapy water for at least 10 minutes.
- Call your physician at once. He or she can determine if you will need rabies shots. The modern process involves fewer shots and little discomfort.
- Report the bite to your local health department or animal control officer. All pets that are suspected of carrying rabies must be confined and observed for 10 days.