

# Rabies in Florida

**Wild animals usually contract rabies in Florida.** Bats and raccoons are most commonly infected, but bobcats, skunks, otters, rodents, panthers and foxes have also been identified as having rabies. Reports of rabid domestic animals include: dogs, cats, horses, cattle and ferrets.

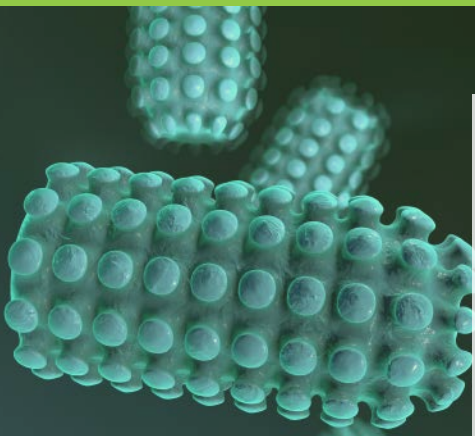
Animals with rabies act strangely; they can be aggressive, attacking for no reason, or very tame. They may drool, stagger or become paralyzed.



**Make sure the rabies vaccines for your pets are current.**







**Rabies is a virus.** It spreads through saliva that comes in contact with open wounds, the mouth, nose or eyes. It causes inflammation in the brains of humans and mammals.

**No one should touch or hold an animal that has, or could have, rabies.**

**See a health care provider immediately** if you or someone you care for has been in contact or attacked by a rabid animal. A tetanus shot may be recommended.

