

# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION



## Rabies: What You Need To Know

### What is rabies?

Rabies is a disease that affects the brain and is caused by a virus. In humans it is almost always fatal.

### What animals get rabies?

All mammals can get rabies. In Iowa, wild animals, especially skunks and bats, are more likely to get rabies. Domestic animals such as dogs, cats, horses, and cattle can be infected. Rodents (such as squirrels, hamsters, and mice) and rabbits very rarely get rabies.

### How is rabies spread?

The virus is most commonly spread through the bite of an infected animal. It can also be spread if the saliva of the infected animal gets directly into an open wound or the eyes, nose, or mouth.

**Special note about bats:** Bats can carry rabies. If you awaken to find a bat in the room, you may be at risk. Report the incident to animal control.

### What to do if you are bitten:

Clean the wound immediately with soap and water. Report the bite to animal control or law enforcement. Give the officer a description of the animal or if you can, take a picture. Who does it belong to? Was it a stray? Animal bites and cat scratches often get infected. Call your doctor and seek medical care immediately.

### Rabies prevention:

Teach your children to stay away from unfamiliar animals. Even animals that look friendly may bite. Do not try to help injured animals. Instead call animal control. Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance. Do not try to feed, catch or play with unknown animals. Make sure your pet has a current rabies vaccination.



### OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department promotes, protects, and preserves health through leadership, services, education, and partnerships.

### OUR VISION:

Scott County—  
A safe and healthy  
community.



## SPECIAL EVENTS

- *Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom, 12:00 PM, Thursday, October 17, 2019.*

## Links

- Iowa Department of Public Health: [https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/Files/Rabies/IDPH\\_FastFact\\_Rabies\\_130619.pdf](https://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/Files/Rabies/IDPH_FastFact_Rabies_130619.pdf)
- Iowa Department of Public Health, Tattoo Program Resources: <https://idph.iowa.gov/tattoo/resources>



## Tattoos: Think Before You Ink

Tattoos are more popular than ever. Celebrities and professional athletes get them. But anyone thinking about getting a tattoo should know about the potential complications of the procedure.

In May 2019, the FDA recalled six tattoo inks because they were found to be contaminated with microorganisms that can lead to serious injuries and an increased risk of infection since the skin barrier is broken during the tattoo procedure.

Commonly reported symptoms of tattoo ink associated infections include the appearance of rashes or raised red bumps on the skin, in areas where the contaminated ink has been applied. Permanent scarring may also be a result from a tattoo related infection.

It is recommended that consumers ask the tattoo artist or studio about the tattoo inks they use and avoid the recalled tattoo inks. Information is power! <https://www.fda.gov/cosmetics/cosmetics-recalls-alerts/fda-advises-consumers-tattoo-artists-and-retailers-avoid-using-or-selling-certain-tattoo-inks>.



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