

Rabies Management In Wyoming

Rabies management in Wyoming is a cooperative partnership between the WY Animal Damage Management Board, the WY Livestock Board, the WY State Veterinary Laboratory, the WY Dept. of Health, and the United States Dept. of Agriculture – Wildlife Services.

WY Animal Damage Management Board's Mission

The ADMB Mission is to coordinate and implement an integrated animal damage management program, based on the best available science, for the benefit of human and natural resources throughout Wyoming

The Animal Damage Management Board is charged with providing state leadership to alleviate or minimize animal damage and rabid wildlife issues in Wyoming.

For Reprints of this brochure:

Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board
2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100
Phone: 307-777-6433
Fax: 307-777-6593
Email: admb@state.wy.us
Website: <http://www.wyadmb.com>

Americans with Disabilities Act

To obtain this publication in an alternative format, contact the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board at 307-777-6433

Contacts:

Rabid Wildlife Issues & Reprints of this brochure:

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2219 Carey Avenue
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100
Phone: 307-777-6433
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Domestic Livestock/Animal Issues:

WY Livestock Board
2020 Carey Avenue - 4th Floor
Cheyenne WY 82002-0051
Phone: (307) 777-7515
Fax: (307) 777-6561
Website: <http://wlsb.state.wy.us>

Testing & Analytical Services:

WY State Veterinary Laboratory
1174 Snowy Range Road
Laramie, WY 82070
Phone: 307-742-6638
Fax: 307-721-2051
Website: <http://wyovet.uwyo.edu/>

Human Health Issues:

WY Department of Health
Hathaway Bldg., 1st Floor, 2300 Capitol Ave.
Mailing: 117 Hathaway Bldg.
Cheyenne, WY 82002
Phone: 307-777-7656
Fax: 307-777-7439
Website: <http://wdh.state.wy.us/wdh>

Supporting Services

U.S. Department of Agriculture – Wildlife Services
P.O. Box 59
Casper, WY 82602
Phone: 307-261-5336
Fax: 307-261-5996
Website: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/>

RABIES

What You Need To Know



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Background

Rabies is one of the oldest known deadly viral diseases, yet today it continues to remain a significant public health issue. Rabies affects the central nervous system of unvaccinated animals, including humans, that are exposed to the virus and unless treated is ultimately fatal.

Over the past 30 years, management of rabies in the United States has shifted in focus from domestic pets being primary carriers to wild animals as being the vector reservoirs (including: skunks, foxes, raccoons, coyotes, bats). According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov), wildlife currently account for at least 90 percent of all reported cases of rabies in the country.

Rabies Symptoms In Animals

What to Look Out For: Vague changes in temperament; May hide and shun company; May be unusually attentive and affectionate (Animal must be well known to observe these symptoms); Restlessness; Nervousness; Developing viciousness. First towards strangers and then towards anyone (they do not recognize family members/owners); May wander far, snapping at anything in its path; If restrained, will chew viciously to free itself; May bite itself; May break its teeth; Froths at the mouth or drools excessively; Saliva may be tinged with blood; Oblivious to pain; Paralysis of vocal chords causes strange utterances

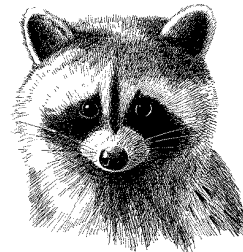
and hoarse howls. At this time a person may mistakenly think the dog or cat has something caught in its throat and could infect him or herself while attempting to look in the animal's mouth.

If you see an animal exhibiting any of these symptoms, please do not try to approach it.

Protect Yourself

People are almost always exposed to rabies through the bite of an infected animal. But exposure can also occur if saliva from an infected animal gets into a cut or open wound or makes contact with the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, or mouth. There is a safe and effective post-exposure treatment for rabies, but if left untreated, rabies is always fatal. Keep in mind though, rabies is a medical urgency, not an emergency.

- Do not touch or pick up wild animals, or stray domestic animals.
- First line of defense is to properly vaccinate all family pets against rabies. In many municipalities, this is a requirement by law.
- Report any unknown or strangely acting animals to your local animal control officer.
- Do not make your yard inviting to wild animals. Remove trash and secure garbage cans.



- Keep family pets indoors at night. During the day, do not let them roam.
- People at high risk of contracting rabies should consider pre-vaccination as a precaution.

If You Are Bitten

- Wash the bite with soap and water for 5 minutes
- Attempt to capture the animal that bit you – but - only if you can do so without further injury.
- Immediately report the bite to your doctor or hospital, and your local health officer.
- **Call 1-888-996-9104.**

Submitting Animals For Testing

Animals suspect for rabies can be submitted for testing to the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory located in Laramie. In most cases, only the head from the animal is required – additional fees may be assessed if the entire animal is submitted for testing.

Because specimen preparation and shipping requirements vary between species of animals, please contact the Lab by calling 307-742-6638 or visiting their website at <http://wyovet.uwyo.edu> to obtain the most current procedures, charges & fees, and Laboratory hours of operation.

In Wyoming, skunks and bats are the primary carriers of rabies.