

# Contacts

## Rabid Wildlife Issues & Reprints of this brochure:

Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board—ADMB

2219 Carey Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100  
Phone: 307-777-6781  
Fax: 307-777-6593  
Web: [www.wyorabies.org](http://www.wyorabies.org)

**The WY 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 WY ADMB is charged with providing state leadership to alleviate or minimize animal damage and rabid wildlife issues in Wyoming.**

## Domestic Livestock/Animal Issues

Wyoming Livestock Board  
1934 Wyott Drive  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Phone: 307-777-7515  
Fax: 307-777-6561  
Web: <http://wlsb.state.wy.us>

## Testing and Analytical Services

Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory  
1174 Snowy Range Road  
Laramie, WY 82070  
Phone: 307-766-9925  
Fax: 307-721-2051  
Web: <http://wyovet.uwyo.edu>

## Human Health Issues

Wyoming Department of Health  
401 Hathaway Building  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Phone: 307-777-7656  
Fax: 307-777-7439  
Web: <http://wdh.state.wy.us>

Wyoming Department of Health

Emergency Notification Line

call **1-888-996-9104**.

## Supporting Services

U.S. Department of Agriculture—Wildlife Services  
P.O. Box 59  
Casper, WY 82602  
Phone: 307-261-5336  
Fax: 307-261-5996  
Web: [www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/)

## Americans with Disabilities Act

To obtain this publication in an alternative format, contact the WY ADMB AT 307-777-6781.

# Rabies in Wyoming

What You Need to Know.



 **Animal Damage  
Management Board**

[www.WYORABIES.org](http://www.WYORABIES.org)

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Cheyenne, WY 82002-0100  
Phone: 307-777-6781**

# Rabies

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes.

The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and death. The early symptoms of rabies in people are similar to that of many other illnesses, including fever, headache, and general weakness or discomfort. As the disease progresses, more specific symptoms appear and may include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, slight or partial paralysis, excitation, hallucinations, agitation, hypersalivation (increase in saliva), difficulty swallowing, and hydrophobia (fear of water). Death usually occurs within days of the onset of these symptoms.

## If You Are Bitten

It's important to remember that rabies is a medical urgency but not an emergency. Decisions should not be delayed.

Wash any wounds immediately. One of the most effective ways to decrease the chance for infection is to wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water.

See your doctor for attention for any trauma due to an animal attack before considering the need for rabies vaccination.



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

Vaccinate all Pets	Keep Pet Food Away from Wildlife and Keep Pets Protected	Keep Your Yard and Home Clean from Trash and Potential Wildlife Habitat	Report Unknown or Strange Acting Animals to Animal Control Officer

**Prevention is Your Best Defense!**



Wyoming Department of Health Emergency Notification Line - For public health emergencies or to report immediately modifiable conditions, please 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 at 307-766-9925 to obtain the most current procedures, charges & fees, and Lab hours of operation.

## Rabies Symptoms in Animals

The classic, or "furious," form of rabies may occur in livestock or pets. The animal appears nervous and agitated, or becomes aggressive, attacking other animals and people. However, the main symptom is unusual behavior, which gradually leads to depression or partial paralysis. Cows typically develop a hoarse bellow. Drooling and abnormal swallowing may make them appear to have something caught in their throats. Some animals may only show depression and weakness, or partial paralysis, of the hindquarters. During the course of several hours to a few days, the animal will go down, develop convulsive seizures, and die.

Horses tend to contract the paralytic form of the disease and may initially show abnormal postures with wobbliness of the hindquarters, frequent whinnying, unexplained aggressiveness (with kicking and biting), and signs of colic. They may also show lameness in one leg, followed by an inability to rise the next day.

The symptoms seen in rabid animals may be quite variable, making early detection difficult. For these reasons, owners should isolate animals showing suspicious behavior or other signs so they may be observed carefully, and precautions should be taken to avoid injury by them. A veterinarian should be consulted to determine whether rabies should be considered in the diagnosis.