

MEDICAL BULLETIN
MARCH 2022

RABIES

MARCH is Rabies awareness month

·According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 99% of all rabies transmissions are from dogs.

About 10,000 dogs are believed to be infected with the disease each year.

The underlying problem is that public awareness of the disease remains poor and that dog owners are not taking up the offer of subsidized rabies immunizations.



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FAQS

Q: What is RABIES?

Rabies is a deadly infection that affects the person's central nervous system. Rabies is a zoonotic disease (disease transmitted from animal to humans) so the rabies virus is found in dogs, cats, and cattle, among others.

Q: How is rabies acquired?

Rabies is found in the saliva of infected/rabid animals. The virus can enter the human body when the animal saliva makes contact with an open wound like a scratch or bite. The virus cannot enter intact human skin.

Q: What are the symptoms?

Rabies is a preventable disease. However, once the virus reaches the spinal cord and the brain the disease is almost always fatal. The virus' journey to the brain takes 10-50 days.

General Symptoms:

- * Fever and Tingling
- * burning sensation on the bite
- * numbness
- * hyperactivity characterized by bizarre and combative behavior.
- * fear of water and air
- * paralysis starting from the bite site and spreads all over the body until victim can no longer breath
- * pricking
- * headache
- * muscle spasms



FAQS

Q: What can be done to prevent rabies?

- * Rabies can be prevented by being cautious when dealing with animals (dogs, cats, etc).
- * Avoid playing with unvaccinated animals.
- * Vaccinate your pets.
- * Limit exposure of pets with other animals/pets to prevent possible contraction

Q: When is the rabies vaccine effective?

If bitten, or open wounds have been exposed to saliva of animal, proceed to the nearest hospital and get vaccinated (within 24 hours).

The period when the virus remains at the bite site and when the person shows no symptoms yet is the **ONLY TIME THE VACCINATION IS EFFECTIVE.**

Q: Is rabies fatal?

Yes, rabies is fatal. Once the virus reaches the spinal cord and brain, the victim will present symptoms of either "furious" or "paralytic" rabies.

Furious Rabies:

- * hyperactivity characterized by bizarre and combative behavior.
- * fear of water and air

Paralytic Rabies:

- * paralysis starting from the bite site and spreads all over the body until victim can no longer breath

