

The Health Department has received reports of a fox with suspected rabies, seen in the town of Stratton on July 20, 2021. The animal is still at large. Please take steps to protect humans and pets from rabies.

If you are bitten by an animal: wash the wound very well with soap and water and contact your health care provider or local hospital. Follow all their instructions.

If you see a wild or stray animal acting strangely, or are concerned about a rabies exposure, call the Rabies Hotline (1-800-4-RABIES), call a **State Game Warden** through your nearest State Police Dispatch, or report it to your town's animal control officer.

If your pet or farm animal was exposed to a wild or stray animal that might have rabies: contact your veterinarian. Pets should be vaccinated for rabies. [State law requires](#) dogs and cats to be vaccinated — even barn cats.

Do not touch or pick up wild or stray animals – even baby animals – or try to make them into pets. Doing so can put yourself or your family at risk of exposure through a bite or a scratch. You can't tell if an animal has rabies just by looking at it. Interacting with young wildlife may result in them being orphaned or, if tested for rabies, requires humanely euthanizing the animal. So, for their own sake, leave wildlife in the wild.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease of the brain that infects mammals and is fatal to both humans and animals. In Vermont, rabies is most commonly found in wild animals such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats and woodchucks. Cats, dogs and livestock can also get rabies if they have not been vaccinated. Rabies virus is spread through the bite of an infected animal. Rabies is transmitted only when the virus is introduced into a bite wound, open cuts on the skin, or onto mucous membranes like the mouth or eyes.

Learn more about rabies in Vermont – visit www.healthvermont.gov/rabies.