

YOUR PET BIT SOMEONE, NOW WHAT?

*We know this is likely difficult to deal with and we appreciate your cooperation.
We are required by law to investigate animal bites.*

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- We are primarily concerned with rabies.
- Rabies is a fatal disease and we must go through a process to determine if the person bitten will need to be treated.
- Treatment is expensive and will likely be at your expense.
- Mineral County has had cases of rabies in recent years. Most cases are with bats. Your pet may have been exposed to a rabid bat and could then transmit rabies to a human.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Report the bite to the Mineral County Sheriff's Department at 822-3555.
- They will ask questions and provide the information to the Mineral County Health Department who will be working with you.



WHAT'S NEXT

- Any animal capable of transmitting the rabies virus will show signs or symptoms of rabies within 10 days.
- There are two ways of finding out whether an animal has rabies.
 1. Observe it for signs or symptoms of rabies for 10 days with the day of the bite being day 0.
 2. The second is to test the brain which can only be completed on a dead animal.
- Signs of rabies are listed below:

Cat, Dog, Ferret	Wild Animals & Livestock
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any change in behavior or sign of illness.• Loss of appetite• Nausea/vomiting• Loss of coordination• Lethargy• Fearful• Aggressive• Excessive drooling• Difficulty swallowing• Staggering• Seizures• Depression• Self-mutilation• Light sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any of the domestic animal behaviors• Unusual behavior such as a nocturnal animal being active during the day or they lose fear of humans

IS YOUR PET CURRENT ON HIS/HER RABIES VACCINATION?

- We will contact your pet's veterinarian to determine whether or not the rabies vaccination status is current.
- If your pet is up-to-date, it may be allowed to be quarantined at home. During this quarantine your pet will need to stay away from other animals

and be observed at all times when outdoors.

- If your pet is not up-to-date, it must be quarantined at the veterinary clinic at your expense.

AFTER THE QUARANTINE

- Following the 10-day quarantine your pet will need to be evaluated and vaccinated if needed by a veterinarian. Documentation of this visit must be faxed to the Mineral County Health Department at 822-3745 on the day of the visit.
- Health department staff will determine whether or not the person bitten needs to be treated then the case will be closed.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Notify the Mineral County Health Department at 822-3564 or the Mineral County Sheriff's Department at 822-3555 if your animal shows any signs of illness during the quarantine period.
- If you choose to euthanize your pet **do not** shoot it in the head. The head must be submitted for testing and the brain must be intact. If the brain is not able to be tested, the person bitten will need to be treated which can be very expensive.
- Please keep your pet's vaccination status up-to-date.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information. Please contact the Mineral County Health Department at 822-3564 with any questions or concerns you may have.

