

YOU WERE BITTEN BY AN ANIMAL, NOW WHAT?

*Being bitten is not fun and we know this is likely a difficult situation to deal with.
We are required by law to investigate animal bites and we appreciate your cooperation.*

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

- We are primarily concerned with rabies.
- Rabies is a fatal disease and we must go through a process to determine whether the person bitten will need to be treated to prevent rabies.
- Treatment is very expensive. It is only given if the animal cannot be tested or shows signs of rabies.
- Mineral County has had cases of rabies in recent years. Most cases are with bats. The animal that bit you may have been exposed to a rabid bat or other rabid animal and could then potentially transmit rabies to you.
- The investigation process will take approximately 10 days to complete.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO?

- Wash wounds immediately with soap & water. This is one of the most effective ways to decrease your risk of infection.
- Seek medical attention. Your wound may need additional cleaning or stitches, and you may need to update your Tetanus. Your doctor may prescribe antibiotics.
- 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 contacting you.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- There are two ways of finding out if an animal has rabies.
 1. Observe it for signs or symptoms of rabies for 10 days.
 2. Test the animal's brain which can only be completed on a dead animal.
- Most animal owners choose to observe their animal for 10 days.
- We will work with the animal owner to monitor the animal for signs/symptoms of rabies for a 10 day quarantine period. Any animal capable of transmitting the rabies virus will show signs or symptoms of rabies within 10 days.

AFTER THE QUARANTINE

- Following the 10-day quarantine of the animal, Mineral County Health Department will determine if you need to be treated based upon the health of the animal.
- If treatment is recommended, we will work with you and your healthcare provider to make sure you understand why you need treatment and what treatment will involve.

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.