

Public Service Announcement

World Rabies Day 2021

Start Date: September 28, 2021

End Date: September 28, 2021

Nunavut-wide

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September 28 is World Rabies Day. Rabies is a deadly but preventable virus that can infect animals and humans. Many warm-blooded animals carry rabies, including foxes, wolves, and dogs. The virus is passed on when an infected animal bites, scratches or licks an open wound. The greatest risk in Nunavut of human exposure to rabies is from domestic dogs.

Rabies has **no cure**. If a person does not receive appropriate medical care after exposure, the infection is almost always fatal. A vaccine given by a medical professional soon after an animal bite can prevent rabies and save your life.

We can all do our part to stop rabies:

- Be safe; don't tease dogs.
- Do not approach or feed dogs you do not know.
- Avoid stray dogs.
- Supervise children around dogs.
- Vaccinate your pet regularly.
- Keep your pets tied on a leash or chain when outside.
- Contact the health centre **immediately** if you are bitten or scratched by an animal.

If you have concerns about a rabid wild animal, contact your local wildlife officer. If your dog is bitten by an animal, call your regional environment health officer or local bylaw officer for instructions.

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