

# Public Health Advisory

## Be aware of dog behaviour as risk of rabies is still present

**July 21, 2022**  
**Nunavut-wide**

The Department of Health is reminding Nunavummiut to be aware of the risk of exposure to rabies by keeping a close eye on their dogs and to not let them roam around freely. Keep your pets tied on a leash or chain when outside. Nunavummiut, especially children, are also advised to be careful around loose or strange animals.

If you have been bitten or scratched by a fox or a dog, go to the health centre and report the incident immediately in case the animal is rabid. Treatment must be started quickly after exposure, as rabies infection is almost always fatal without treatment.

Domestic animals that spend time tied up outdoors should be monitored for a change in behaviour and signs of rabies. Signs of rabies include behaving strangely, staggering, frothing at the mouth, choking or making strange noises. Animals exhibiting these signs should be avoided and reported to the Regional Environmental Health Office or Conservations Officer. Children should not play with foxes, other wildlife, or pets that aren't theirs. Do not approach loose or strange dogs.

In Nunavut, rabies is commonly found in foxes and wolves and can spread to dogs when they are bitten, scratched, or exposed to the bodily fluids of a rabid animal. Rabies can be passed onto people when an infected animal bites, scratches or licks them. A person can also get rabies when handling or skinning infected animals if they have cuts on their skin. If you see a fox or wolf wandering around the community, contact your local Conservation Officer. If your dog had contact with a fox or wolf, contact the Regional Environmental Health Office.

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