

# Public Service Announcement

## Spring rabies reminder

**Start Date:** May 15, 2023

**End Date: May 31, 2023**

## Nunavut-wide

**60 sec**

Spring weather means an increased chance of encountering wildlife while out on the land, so the Department of Health wants to remind everyone to be aware of the risk of exposure to rabies.

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.

Nunavummiut should also use caution when handling wild animals that are considered to have a high risk of rabies infection. The rabies virus can be transmitted through broken skin or mucous membranes in the eyes, nose or mouth. Due to the danger of rabies infection, we remind all residents to use safe handling and skinning practices.

If you have been bitten or scratched by an animal, go to the health centre or hospital and report the incident immediately. Treatment must be started quickly after exposure, as rabies infections are almost always fatal.

We can all do our part to prevent rabies by:

- Avoiding stray animals.
- Supervising children around animals.
- Staying up-to-date on pet vaccinations.
- Tying your pets on a leash or chain when outside.

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

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