



Rabies

Protocol Miami County Public Health

Rabies is a viral disease of mammals, transmitted through the saliva to humans. Rabies can be transmitted directly from a bite of a rabid animal or indirectly to an open cut in the skin. The disease is contagious, causes madness and convulsions and can be fatal if not treated immediately.

Rabies is preventable. Rabies can be prevented either by eliminating exposures to rabid animals, by consistently vaccinating domestic pets, or by providing exposed persons with prompt treatment to the wound combined with the administration of human rabies immune globulin and vaccine by a medical professional.

Miami County Health District strives very hard to prevent the spread of disease to our residents.

Rabies is a preventable disease. We take this very serious.

If a person is bitten, it is a state law that all dog, cat and ferret bites be reported to the health district. The dog/cat/ferret is to be quarantined for 10 days and not to come in contact with people or other animals. This is required in the event the animal has rabies, it will not infect anyone else. The animal is observed by staff here at the health district, looking for symptoms of rabies. If the animal has rabies, it will exhibit some sign of the disease within 10 days. If the animal appears healthy, we then make sure the animal has current rabies vaccination. If the animal does not have a current rabies vaccination, they are ordered to get the vaccine within the next week. If the animal does not get the rabies vaccination the health district files charges in municipal court. We require the owner of the animal to follow these procedures to do our best to keep the rabies virus out of Miami County. If a person is bitten by a wild animal, such as a bat or raccoon, an animal known for carrying the rabies virus, we try to locate the animal and if possible, we submit the animal to the State Health Department for rabies testing. If the animal is unavailable for testing, we refer the victim to their physician.

Rabies is considered mild here in Miami County, and Miami County Public Health wants it to stay that way.

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April 2017