Rabies in Montana

RABID ANIMALS

Animals tested in Montana vs. rabid animals

Every year, about 20 animals tested positive for rabies in Montana, most of them are bats and skunks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Percentage of Rabid Animals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cat</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dog</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bats</td>
<td>29.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skunks</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2009-2014

- Bats
- Skunks
- Bats and Skunks

EXPOSURES

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)

In 2015, nearly 200 persons received the recommendation to pursue a series of shots to prevent disease after exposure to an animal that is capable of transmitting rabies.

36% Cat, 23% Dog, 33% Bats, 7% Other

Did You Know?

Post-exposure prophylaxis costs on average $5,000 per person and cost increases with body weight.

Rabies prevention

- Never touch wild animals or handle bats, even dead ones. Ask children to tell an adult if they see or find a bat.
- Vaccinate domestic animals against rabies. All dogs and cats should have a current rabies certificate.
- Bat-proof your house. Close all outside openings larger than 3/8". Put up screens to prevent bats from entering.
- Watch for abnormal animal behavior. Notify animal control if you notice unusual behavior.

If exposure occurred:

- Visit a health care provider, even for minor animal bites.
- Wash wound/bite immediately with soap and water.
- Notify the local health department.

Source: Montana Infectious Disease System, DPHHS, Animal rabies testing from Montana Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, DOL