

# *Learning to Make Rabies History!*



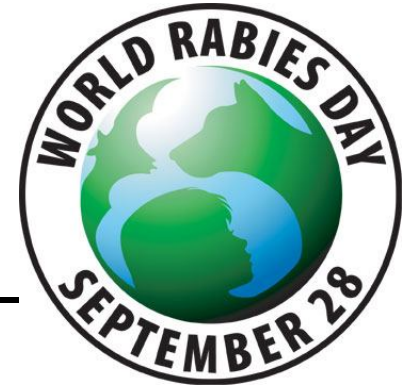
Connecting Classrooms  
Globally through World Rabies Day!





# World Rabies Day

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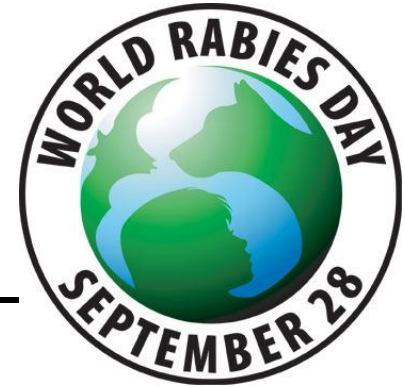
- Take 1 minute to think and write down the answers to the following questions:

*What do you already know about rabies?*

*Why is it important to have a World Rabies Day?*

# Why is learning about rabies important?

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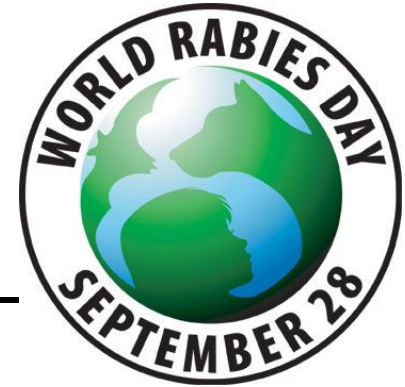


- Rabies is 100% preventable yet at least 59,000 humans die from rabies each year around the world, mostly from exposure to dogs.
- A person dies of rabies almost every 9 minutes.
- Almost half of all rabies deaths occur in children under the age of 15 years.
- Many developed countries have vaccines for animals and humans to prevent rabies. These countries might only have a few deaths each year.



# What you will know and be able to do after this lesson

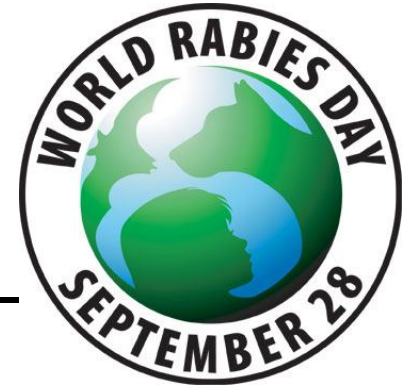
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- Why rabies is important
- The history of rabies and what it is
- Which animals are most likely to have rabies
- How you could be exposed to rabies
- The symptoms of rabies
- How to prevent rabies infection



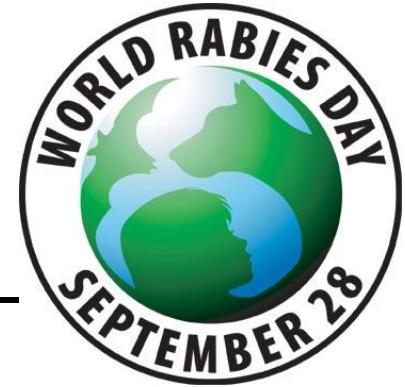
# What is Rabies?



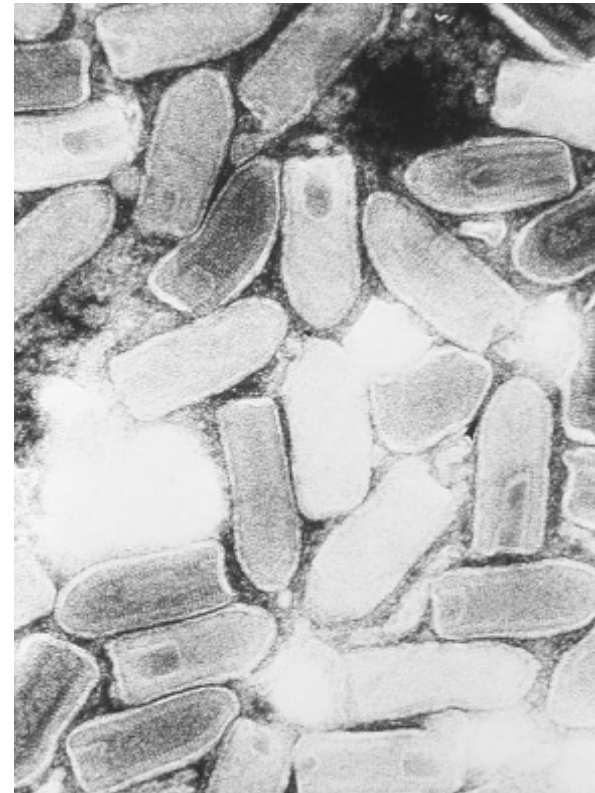
- Rabies has been around for over 4,000 years!
- If someone is sick with rabies, nearly 100% of the time, it will result in death.
- Rabies is caused by a **virus**.



# What causes rabies?

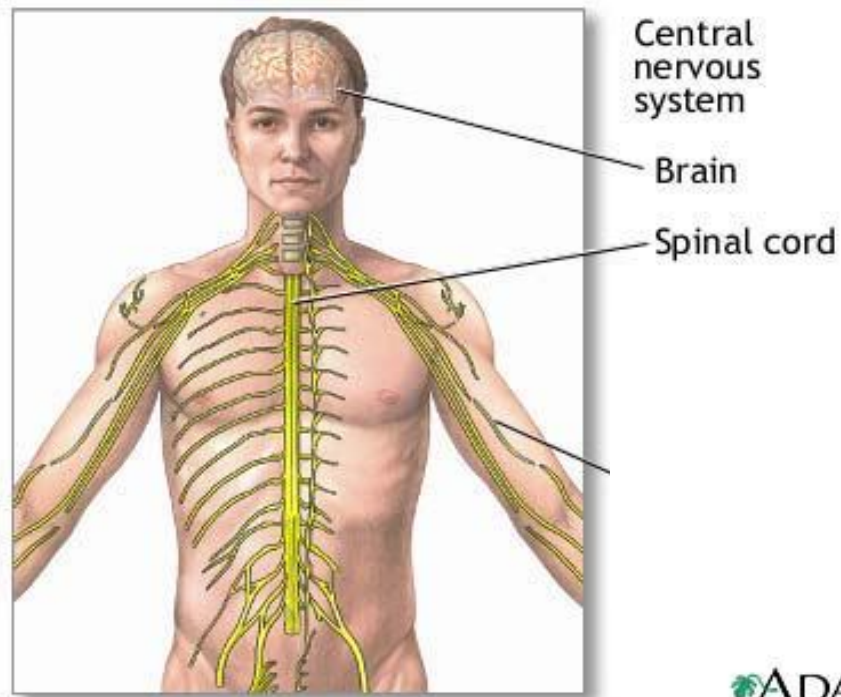
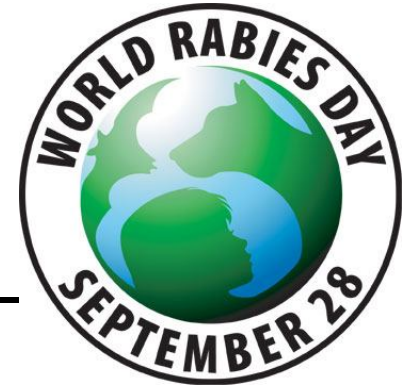


- Rabies is caused by a virus which is a microorganism smaller than a bacteria.
- A virus cannot grow unless it is inside a living cell.
- The rabies virus can get into your body and attack your **central nervous system**.



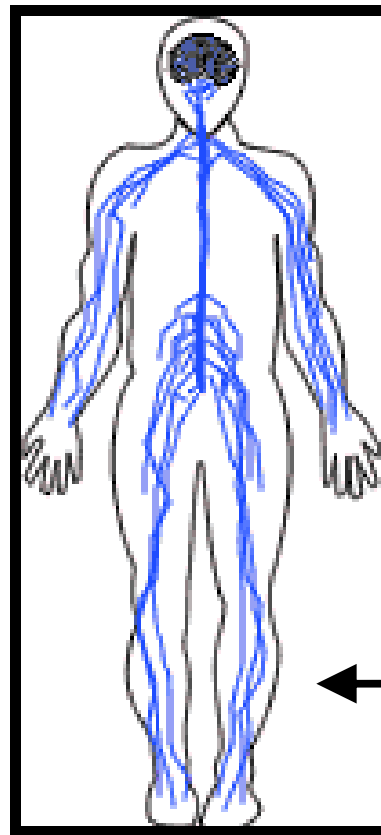
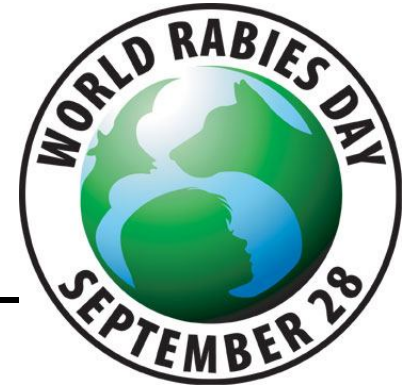
*Picture of rabies virus: Rabies virus is shaped like a submarine.*

# What is the Central Nervous System?



- The central nervous system includes the brain and spinal cord.
- A healthy nervous system is necessary for everything we do: thinking, feeling, seeing, breathing, swallowing, eating, moving, and talking.

# Rabies attacks the Central Nervous System



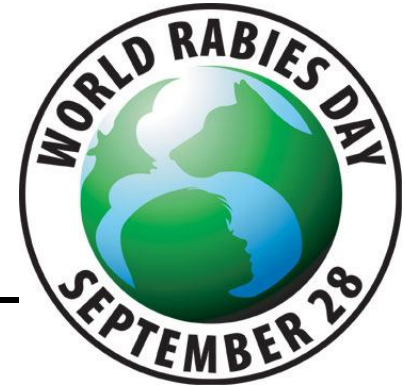
- Watch as the rabies virus from an exposure on the leg spreads up the spinal cord to the brain and throughout the rest of the body.

**Rabies virus entering the body.**



# How do people get rabies?

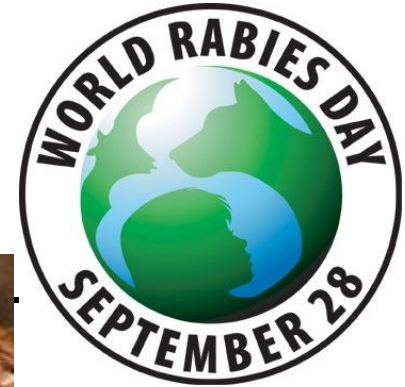
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- When animals are sick with rabies, their personality changes:
  - Rabid animals may want to bite you and or other animals.
  - Timid animals that get rabies may no longer be afraid of you.
- You can get rabies when an animal with rabies bites you.
- Rabies in dogs is still a big problem in many parts of the world.



# What kind of animals get rabies?

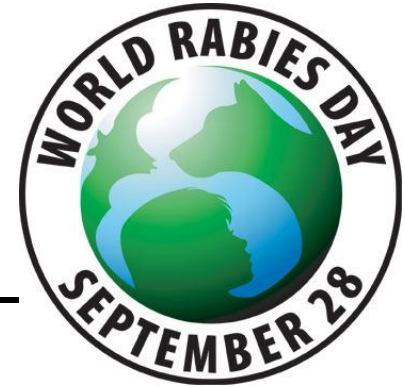


- The rabies virus can infect all **mammals**.
- **Mammals** are warm-blooded animals that have hair and mammary glands to produce milk for their babies.
- Animals like frogs, birds, and snakes do not get rabies.



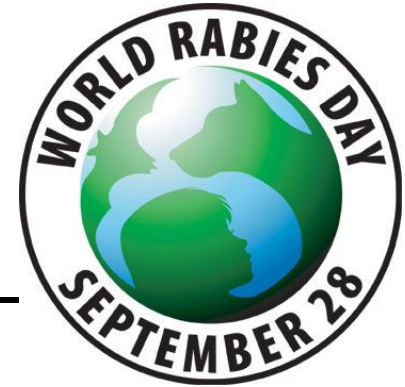
# Symptoms

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- Headache, fever, sore throat
- Nervousness, confusion
- Pain or tingling at the site of the bite
- **Hallucinations**
  - Seeing things that are not really there
- **Hydrophobia**
  - "Fear of water" due to spasms in the throat
- **Paralysis**
  - Unable to move parts of the body
- Coma and death

# Bats & Rabies



- The main source of rabies in humans in North America is from bats.
- Bat bites can be very small.
- Some people may not realize that they have been bitten.



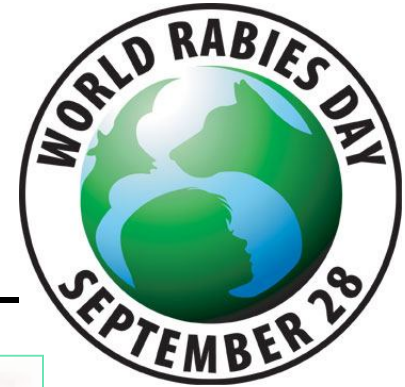
## Prevention

- Don't handle bats.
- If you wake up in a room with a bat, tell your parents and call your local health department and your doctor.



# What to do if you are bitten by an animal

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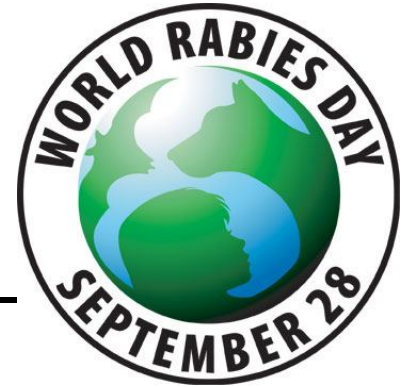


- Wash the wound well with soap and water.
- Tell your parents.
- See a Doctor, even if the bite is very small.
- Contact your local health department and animal control officer.



# Prevention after Exposure

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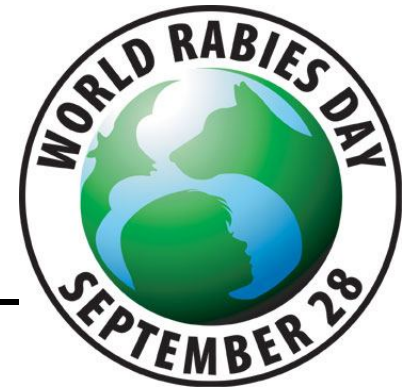
- Anti-rabies shots can prevent the disease.
  - At first, 1-3 shots of antibodies are given around the bite.
  - Then, five shots of vaccine are given in the arm over 30 days.
  - Rabies shots help your body make powerful antibodies that kill the virus.



**Rabies vaccine being given in the arm.**

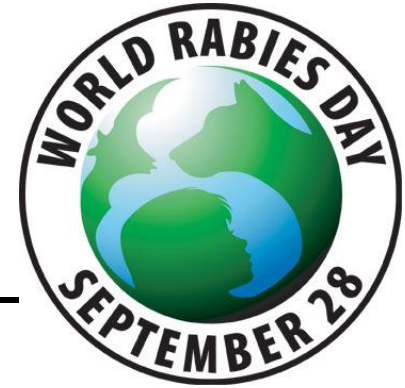
# Protect Yourself from Rabies

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- Vaccinate your pets against rabies.
- Avoid stray pets or wild animals.
- Always ask an owner or adult before petting a dog, cat or other type of animal.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home.





# Potential Activities

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## *Develop a public service announcement about rabies*

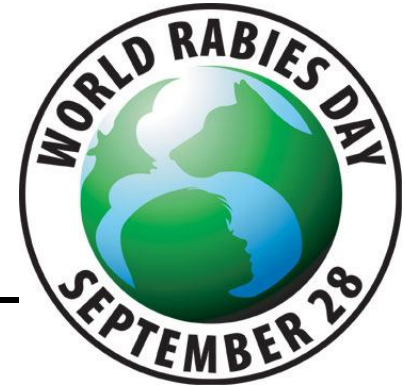
- Imagine you are a veterinarian and write a convincing advertisement that will encourage your clients to get their pets vaccinated against rabies.
- You have been asked by the media (newspaper, radio, or TV) to write a public service announcement for teenagers that will develop an understanding of the risk of rabies and how to prevent the disease.





# To Learn More

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- World Rabies Day  
<https://rabiesalliance.org/world-rabies-day/>
- CDC  
<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/>
- World Health Organization  
[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
- Global Alliance for Rabies Control  
<https://rabiesalliance.org>

