

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT RABIES?

There are several things that we can all do to help stop the spread of rabies:

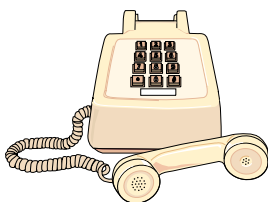
*Control your pets by keeping them on a leash, in a kennel or indoors.

*Make sure that your pets have their shots. Rabies is one of many diseases that can be prevented in this way. Contact your local veterinary clinic for details.



*Avoid wild animals, in particular foxes, wolves and coyotes. Never try to feed a wild animal.

*If you see an animal acting strangely, report it to an official, such as a conservation officer, veterinarian, police officer, or public health official.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about this or other related topics, please visit the website listed below or contact an office from one of the identified departments:

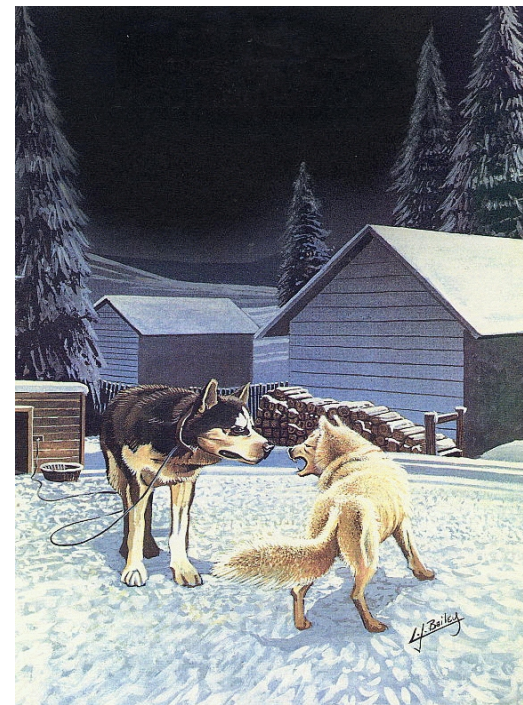
www.gov.nf.ca/agric

under “Animal Diseases”



Department of Health and Community Services
Department of Forest Resources and Agrifoods
Department of Government Services and Lands
Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
Regional Health and Community Services Boards
January 2003

RABIES



IT'S NOT WORTH THE RISK



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a serious disease of animals that can also affect humans. The disease is caused by a virus that affects the brain. It will kill an infected person if nothing is done to stop it.

HOW DOES RABIES SPREAD?

People and animals can get rabies if they are bitten, licked or scratched by an animal infected with the disease. In this province, rabies is most commonly found in red or arctic foxes, but it can be carried by any fur-bearing animal, including bats.



WHERE IS RABIES FOUND?

In this province, rabies has most often been found in Labrador, at certain times in the year. During the winter, animals with rabies sometimes cross over on the ice from Labrador, bringing the disease to the island part of the province. Cases in 2003 have shown that this may be a growing concern in some parts of the island.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM BITTEN?

All animal bites or scratches should be taken seriously, especially if you live in an area where rabies has been found. If you are bitten or come in contact with an animal that may have rabies, wash the bite or contacted area with soap and water as soon as possible.



You must then see a doctor for the proper treatment. The doctor will also call the public health office to make a report about the bite.

In the case of a bite from a pet, the pet may have to be kept apart from people and other animals for ten days. An official will examine the pet after this time to prove that the virus was not passed along in the bite.

If the bite was from a wild animal or if a pet is suspected of having rabies, the head of the animal will have to be tested.



WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RABIES?

Animals with rabies may not look different from a healthy animal. However, it may cause an animal to act strangely. For example:

- it may attack objects or other animals
- it may gnaw or bite its own limbs
- it may look depressed and hide away
- it may lose its fear of humans,
- it may be drooling a lot, or
- it may have paralysis or have a drooping head.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I AM A TRAPPER?

If you hunt or trap wild animals, you should be careful when handling dead animals. Always wear gloves when handling, skinning or dressing wild animals, and wash your hands afterwards. Washing your hands and wearing gloves will protect you from the many diseases that can be carried by animals, including rabies.

