

Rabies

What is Rabies?

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the nervous system.

Rabies is fatal if left untreated. Rabies affects mammals, including dogs, cats, horses, cattle, sheep and ferrets.

Rabies is rare in humans

Signs and Symptoms

Most animals develop one of two forms of disease – “furious rabies” or “dumb rabies”

- Furious Rabies – easily excited or angered
- Dumb rabies – animal appears paralyzed or dazed

The only way to confirm an animal has rabies is to kill it and test its brain for the virus

Transmission (How it spreads)

Animals can spread rabies for 3-5 days before they become sick and during their illness

Treatment

Humans who may have been exposed to a rabid animal must receive post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) if determined necessary. PEP is a series of 5 vaccinations.

Animals must be given a booster vaccination and placed in quarantine for up to 6 months after being exposed to another rabid animal

Prevention:

- Vaccination of susceptible animals
- Avoid contact with wild animals,
- Keep pets away from wild animals

Who is at Risk?

Anyone who comes into contact with a rabid animal

Animals who are not up-to-date on rabies vaccination

Rabies is a four-hour reportable disease in Kansas. All cases must be reported to KDHE via the Epi Hotline: 877-427-7317

Report cases to the Riley County Health Department by calling the Disease Investigation Line: 785-317-0474