

RABIES

This advice can save your life!

Rabies is a controlled animal disease in terms of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984) and any suspected outbreak must be immediately reported to the responsible State Veterinarian. Lets vaccinate our pets to prevent rabies.

WHAT IS RABIES?

Rabies is a disease that affects the brain, causing death of people and animals.

SIGNS OF DISEASE IN ANIMALS?

Changes in behaviour (e.g. wild animals appear tame, whilst domestic animals become aggressive), salivation (drooling or foam at the mouth), incoordination, paralysis (loss of ability to move), inability to swallow or drink water.

HOW DO PEOPLE GET RABIES?

People most commonly get rabies from being bitten by a dog that has rabies.

WHICH ANIMALS CAN GET RABIES?

Pets, e.g. dogs and cats. Livestock (e.g. cattle) and some wildlife can also get rabies.

HOW DO I PROTECT MY PET AND MYSELF?

Have all your dogs and cats vaccinated yearly – it is compulsory by law. Never touch or pick up stray animals.

If you get bitten:

- Wash the wound(s) well with lots of soap under running water.
- Immediately go to the clinic.
- You might have to return to the clinic several times for treatment. Failure to return for follow-up treatment can result in the treatment not being effective and death may result.
- Inform the local state or private veterinarian, animal health technician or even the local police so that they may find and remove the rabid animal before it hurts anyone else.

Contact your nearest state/private veterinarian/animal health technician for further information

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