



**Expert advice on rabies is available from:**

- **Onderstepoort Veterinary Institute Rabies Unit**  
Tel: 012 529 9420/439
- **National Institute of Communicable Diseases (Human exposures)**  
Cell: 082 883 9920
- **Allerton Provincial Veterinary Laboratory**  
Tel: 033 347 6200
- **Directorate of Veterinary Services**  
Department of Agriculture  
Tel: 012 319 7502
- *or*

**Stamp**

**Rabies kills!  
Vaccinate your  
dog and cat!**

For further information contact your nearest state veterinarian or animal health technician.

**Provincial Veterinary Services contact numbers:**

KwaZulu-Natal .....	033 347 6200
Gauteng .....	012 328 5140
Limpopo .....	015 307 2800
Free State .....	051 436 5834
Eastern Cape .....	043 683 1004
Mpumalanga .....	013 741 4710/3218
Northern Cape .....	053 839 7800
North West .....	014 592 9281/2
Western Cape .....	021 808 5052

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# Rabies

## National Rabies Week

3 to 8 September 2007



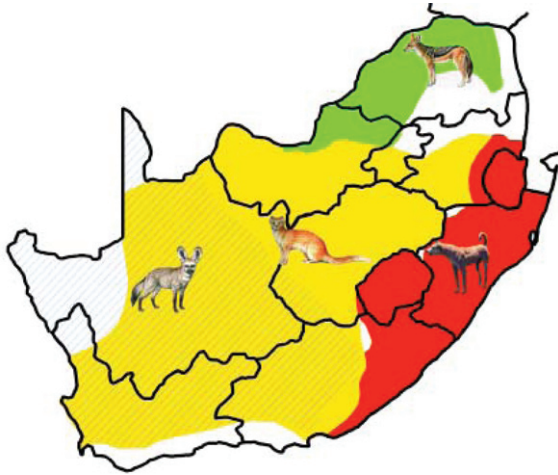
**Rabies kills  
animals and  
humans**



**agriculture**

Department:  
Agriculture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# RABIES IS A DEADLY DISEASE • HELP US IN THE BATTLE • VACCINATE YOUR PETS



The distribution of rabies in South Africa

## What is rabies?

Rabies is a fatal, viral disease to which humans are also susceptible.

## How is rabies transmitted?

The disease is mainly transmitted by the bite of an infected animal as the virus is found in the saliva of a rabid animal.

## What symptoms can be expected in a rabid animal?

Symptoms can vary widely. The most common signs are:

- Behavioural changes (e.g. wild animals appear tame and domestic animals become aggressive).

- Salivation and abnormal vocalisation.
- Incoordination.

## Which animals can become victims of rabies and also transmit the disease to humans/ other animals?

All warm blooded animals can contract and then transmit rabies. The most common species in South Africa that can become infected with rabies are:

- **Pets**, e.g. dogs, cats, horses
- **Livestock**, e.g. cattle, goats, sheep,
- **Wild animals**, e.g. mongoose, bat-eared fox, black-backed jackal, bats.

## How can I protect my dog and cat against rabies?

Pet owners are compelled by law (Animal Diseases Act 35 of 1984) to ensure that their dogs and cats are vaccinated at 3 months of age against rabies, repeated within 12 months (first booster) and then every 3 years (follow-up boosters). The pet's vaccination booklet should accompany the animal when traveling.

The vaccine is available from a veterinary clinic or hospital, animal welfare organisations and Veterinary Services (state veterinarians and animal health technicians).

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**Report all suspect cases to your nearest state veterinarian or animal health technician**

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## How is rabies transmitted to humans?

Human infection most commonly results from dog bites (dog infected with rabies), and the victims are usually young children.

## What should I do if I get bitten?

- Wash wound well for at least 5 minutes with water and soap.
- **Immediately** consult a medical practitioner.
- Do not wait for symptoms (headaches and fever, muscle pains, fear of water, mental disorder, difficult swallowing, paralysis, vomiting, profuse salivation, hoarse voice, irritability, anxiety, etc.) to develop.
- Rabies can be prevented by means of vaccination and antirabies immunoglobulins.
- There is no effective treatment for humans or animals once symptoms of rabies develop.