



Kent City Health Department
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FACT SHEET

JULY 2019

www.kentpublichealth.org

BY THE NUMBERS

Rabies: A Fatal Disease

■ 32% of Portage County adults reported concern for theirs and their pet's safety.

Source: [Portage County Community Health Assessment](#)

Highest Risk from Wildlife, Commonly Bats

Rabies is a virus that infects wildlife, especially bats, raccoons, skunks and foxes in the US. It can spread to people and pets when they are bitten or scratched, causing fever, agitation and death. Rabies is 100% preventable with post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) that includes rabies vaccine and medications to fight infection, as long as people get PEP before symptoms start. Understanding the risk and knowing what to do after contact with wildlife can save lives.

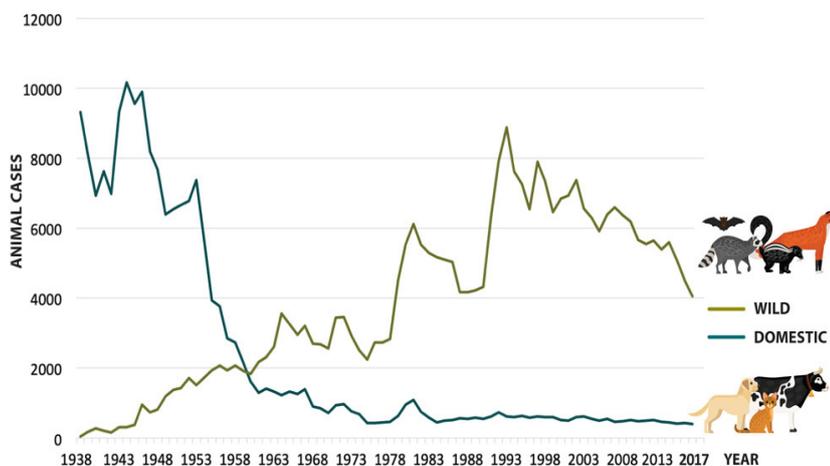
Want to learn more? Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/>



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion

10 Every 10 minutes, someone in the U.S. is treated for possible exposure to rabies.	70% 7 out of 10 Americans who die from rabies in the US were infected by bats.	5,000 Approx. 5,000 animals, mostly wildlife, test positive for rabies each year in the U.S.
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Then & Now: Changes in Rabid Animals Reported



PROBLEM

People may not know about rabies:

- Contact with infected bats is the leading cause of rabies deaths in people in the U.S.
- Rabid dogs outside the U.S. are the second leading cause of rabies deaths in Americans, who are exposed during travel abroad.
- Wild animals that are common carriers of rabies in the U.S.- Bat, Skunk, Raccoon, Fox, & Mongoose.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Everyone Can:

- Prevention is key- Leave wildlife alone, wash exposed areas with soap & water, and vaccinate your pets. <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies>
- Whether in the U.S. or abroad, seeing a healthcare provider quickly for treatment upon any exposure to rabies can help prevent it from becoming fatal.

A FEW SMART FACTS ABOUT RABIES

1. Once the leading cause of human rabies deaths in the U.S.
2. Dogs are no longer as much of a risk due to the use of vaccines, with only 1% reported rabid each year.
3. Animals like opossums or squirrels hardly ever have rabies.
4. Scratches or bites from bats are hard to recognize as they are smaller than the top of a pencil eraser and can still spread rabies.
5. Rabid animals can be found in people's yards and homes, and not just in the woods.

For more information visit:

www.americanhumane.org/fact-sheet/rabies



Resource:
 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 1-800-CDC-INFO
 (232-4636)
 TTY: 1-888-232-6348