

# Rabies

Information for the general public



## Source of infection

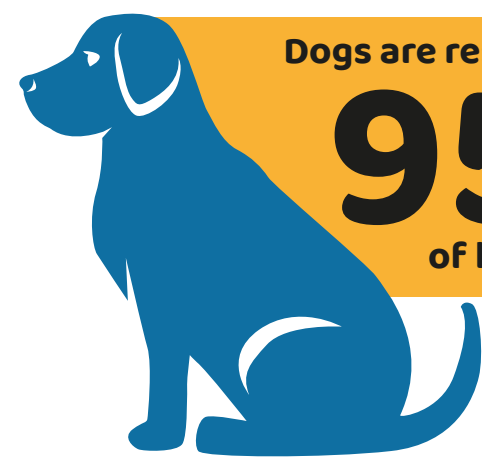
Rabies is transmitted through the bite or saliva of an infected animal (zoonoses).

## Transmission and prevention

Bites, scratches or when saliva of an infected animal comes into direct contact with mucous membranes (i.e. eyes, nose, mouth) or wounds.

### Prevent it by:

- ▶ getting vaccinated before exposure
- ▶ reducing exposure to wild animals and dogs
- ▶ vaccinating household pets (such as dogs, cats and ferrets)



Dogs are responsible for **95%** of human cases.

Other species, that can cause rabies include:



## Symptoms



No symptoms from 1 to 3 months (incubation period varies) after infection



After 1 to 3 months: a fever with pain and unusual tingling, pricking or burning sensation (paraesthesia) at the wound site



Slight or partial paralysis, hallucinations



Hypersalivation, difficulty swallowing



Hydrophobia

## Actions to take in case of symptoms:



If you are bitten by a suspected rabid animal, seek immediate medical care and get post exposure prophylaxis, which includes vaccine. Never wait for symptoms to appear as there is no treatment once symptoms are present.