

Rabies in Durham Region

2019-2023

Rabies is a viral disease that affects humans and other mammals

Quick Facts

On average,

1,443

animal incidents were reported in Durham Region each year between 2019 and 2023

Rabies is usually spread through contact with an infected animal's saliva



Animal incidents involving a break in human skin **must be reported to the health department**



Once symptoms appear, rabies is fatal



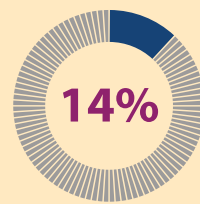
For more details see: [Ontario Ministry of Health, Management of Potential Rabies Exposures Guideline, 2020](#)

Three animals within Durham Region (all bats) tested positive for rabies between 2019 and 2023

Treatment



Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), including vaccine, will protect against rabies after an incident



PEP was provided in 14% of investigations

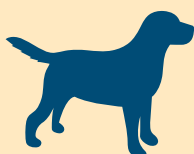
81%



The most common type of exposure that PEP was administered for was a bite or scratch

Animal involved

33%



of PEP administered was for incidents involving dogs

23%



of PEP administered was for incidents involving bats

21%



of PEP administered was for incidents involving raccoons

13%



of PEP administered was for incidents involving cats

Prevention

To avoid animal incidents and protect against rabies:

Vaccinate pets against rabies as required by law

Do not allow pets to roam unsupervised

Do not interact with stray or wild animals

Wildlife proof your house and yard



Domestic animals involved in an incident must be confined for a 10-day observation period to determine if they develop rabies

Data Sources:

- Durham Region Health Protection Information System, 2019-2023
- Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, 2019-2023