

To Report Lost, Injured, Wild or Stray Animals Contact:

Clarington, including Courtice

Clarington Animal Services
33 Lake Road
Bowmanville, ON L1C 3A6
905-623-7651

Oshawa, East Whitby, and Columbus

City of Oshawa Animal Services
919 Farewell Street South
Oshawa, ON L1H 6N8
905-436-3311 ext. 2480

Pickering

Pickering Animal Services
1688 Highway 7
Brougham, ON L0H 1A0
905-683-7575

Ajax

Town of Ajax Municipal Office
Animal Services Department
65 Harwood Ave., South
Ajax, ON L1S 2H9
905-683-8275

Whitby

Whitby Animal Services Centre
4680 Thickson Road North
Whitby, ON L1N 5R3
905-655-0283

Townships of Uxbridge and Scugog

Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Control Centre
1360 Reach Street
Port Perry, ON L9L 1B2
905-985-9547 or 1-800-871-4374

Brock Township

Township Office
1 Cameron Street E., P.O. Box 10
Cannington, ON L0E 1E0
1-705-432-2355 or 1-866-223-7668



To Report Human Contact with an Animal

For Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa and Clarington

Durham Region Health Department
Health Protection Division
101 Consumers Drive, 2nd Floor
Whitby, ON L1N 1C4
905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729
Fax 905-666-1887
durham.ca/rabies

For the Townships of Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock

Durham Region Health Department
Health Protection Division
181 Perry Street, 2nd Floor
Port Perry, ON L9L 1B8
905-985-4889 or 1-866-845-1868
Fax 905-982-0840
durham.ca/rabies



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Durham Health Connection Line

1-800-841-2729

durham.ca/rabies



If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

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Rabies...



Animal Contact
and Rabies
Exposure
Information and
Guidelines for
Durham Region

The Durham Region Health Department carries out an investigation whenever a human is bitten or scratched by an animal because rabies is frequently present in our wildlife population and the possibility of a domestic animal becoming infected cannot be overlooked. This pamphlet is intended to guide and assist victims of animal bites and persons who believe they may have been exposed to rabies. This will not only assist Public Health Inspectors in their investigations but may also help reduce post-exposure anti-rabies treatments.

Facts about Rabies



Each year, approximately 150 Durham Region residents receive anti-rabies treatment because of contact with a rabies positive animal, wild animal or with a stray dog or cat. Public Health Inspectors in Durham Region investigate about 1,500 incidents of potential rabies transmission from animals to humans each year.

In Durham Region, the most recent rabies positive animals identified have been bats.

Rabies is spread by wild and domestic animals, such as: foxes, raccoons, skunks, bats, dogs and cats. It can occur in both agricultural areas (livestock), and urban centers throughout Ontario.

There are significant populations of foxes and raccoons in urban and rural areas which increases the potential for human to animal contact.



Several strains of rabies attributed to bats, are also common in Ontario. Recent human deaths from rabies in Canada have been linked to bat exposure.

Rabies is Contagious and Fatal

Rabies is caused by a virus that attacks the brain. The virus can be present in the saliva and is generally transmitted by a break in the skin through an animal bite and/or scratch. It can also enter the body through skin abrasions, the mouth, nose or eyes. After close contact with a rabid animal, any warm-blooded animal, including humans, can contract the disease and transmit it.

The incubation period from the time an animal contracts rabies to the first appearance of symptoms can be as short as two weeks, or longer than six months. Once symptoms appear, the disease is fatal.

Behavior of Rabid Animals

The virus is present in the saliva of an infected animal before the symptoms of the disease start. That is why it may be difficult to tell if an animal has rabies simply by looking at it.

The virus must have time to travel through the nerves and then to the brain before a change can be seen in the behaviour of the animal.

A rabid animal may exhibit any combination of the following behaviours:

Furious Rabies – the infected animal will be very aggressive, anxious, attacking and biting without provocation.

Dumb Rabies – the infected animal will seem unusually tame or friendly, a domestic pet may be withdrawn and shy.

Physical symptoms may include weight loss, lack of coordination, paralysis, drooling and inevitably death.

If Bitten or Scratched By Any Animal

- Immediately wash the affected area(s) thoroughly with soap and water (first aid). Apply an antiseptic to the wound(s).
- Seek medical attention from a health care provider.
- Immediately notify your local Health Department and provide information to assist in locating and identifying the animal.
- If the animal is located; domestic animals are confined for a 10-day observation period to determine if they develop rabies.
- If the domestic animal dies during the confinement period, it will be tested for rabies.
- If the animal is not located, the victim will be advised to consult with their health care provider concerning post-exposure anti-rabies treatment.



Rabies, if untreated, is a fatal disease.