



Carson City Health and Human Services

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BAT TESTS POSITIVE FOR RABIES

Carson City, NV - A bat in Carson City has tested positive for rabies according to Carson City Health and Human Services. There is known human exposure to the bat. Rabies is a deadly viral disease that affects the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord). People get rabies from the bite of an animal with rabies. You can also be exposed to rabies if infected saliva or tissue containing rabies gets into a fresh wound (one that has bled within 24 hours) or the eyes, nose or mouth.

Most of the recent human rabies cases in the United States have been caused by rabies virus in bats. Bats have small, sharp teeth that may not leave a visible puncture wound or noticeable pain at the bite site. It is possible to be bitten by a bat and not realize it. ***Therefore, it is very important to seek medical advice/attention: a) if you awaken and there is a bat in your home and/or b) you have had any physical contact with a bat.*** It is important to remember bats that are active by day, found in a place where bats are not usually seen, and are unable to fly may have rabies.

If you think you have been bitten by a rabid animal wash the wound with soap and water for five minutes and seek medical attention immediately. If you think your pet or domestic animal has been bitten by a bat, contact Carson City Animal Services immediately.

Carson City Health and Human Services urges the following precautions:

- Maintain current rabies vaccinations on all dogs and cats four months of age and older.
- Confine all pets or keep them on a leash.
- All persons, especially children, are warned to avoid all sick or injured animals.
- All stray or wild animals should be avoided, particularly skunks and bats observed during the day.
- Report all animal bites or scratches that break the skin or any physical contact with bats (with or without a bite) to Carson City Animal Services.

For concerns about contact with bats please call Carson City Health and Human Services at 887-2190.