



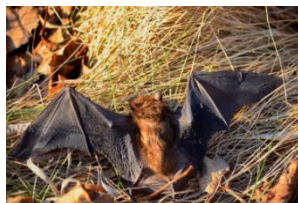
INFORMATION ON BITES AND RABIES



RABIES IS DEADLY.

Direction de santé publique de la Montérégie

October 2025



The Department of Public Health (*la Direction de santé publique*) is reminding you to be vigilant regarding the danger of rabies when exposed to wild animals (bats, skunks, foxes and raccoons), as well as domestic pets (cats, dogs) who could be infected.

What is rabies?

- Rabies is a contagious and deadly disease caused by a virus that affects the nervous system.
- It can affect all mammals including humans.
- Some wild animals such as bats, raccoons, foxes and skunks are more susceptible to infection.
- Fortunately, there is a treatment to prevent rabies, which, if administered promptly following contact with an infected animal, stops the disease from developing in humans.

How is rabies transmitted?

- Rabies is transmitted through a bite or a scratch from an infected animal. A person can also contract rabies if the saliva of an infected animal comes in contact with an open cut or mucous membrane (e.g. mouth, eye, nose).
- Wild animals can transmit rabies directly to humans or indirectly by infecting domestic animals.

How to protect yourself?

- Never touch a wild or unknown animal even if it is dead.
- To dispose of a carcass, use a rigid object (broom, box) or thick gloves.

Be careful of any contact with a bat: it is possible to be unaware of a scratch or a bite from a bat. A bat can also bite through a sack and certain gloves. Any physical contact with a bat should be assessed promptly by a healthcare professional.



- For parents of young children:
 - Ask your children if they have touched a wild or domestic animal.
 - Teach your children the appropriate behaviour around a wild or unknown animal: do not feed it, touch it or approach it and inform an adult of its presence. In addition, never handle a bat.
- Vaccinate your pets against rabies in consultation with your veterinarian.
- Consult a veterinarian if your pet is bitten by or comes in contact with a wild animal that could transmit rabies.
- Take measures to prevent attracting unwanted animals to your property (e.g. keep exterior garbage cans out of the reach of animals).
- Avoid moving unwanted animals or ones that appear abandoned, because you could be spreading rabies to other regions. Find out about possible restrictions that may exist regarding moving animals.
- Be aware that keeping most wild animals in captivity is illegal in Quebec (e.g. raccoons, striped skunks, bats, white tailed deer and foxes).

There have been several reported cases of raccoon rabies in the Montérégie and Estrie. The risk of rabies in wild animals in these areas is extremely high. Report the presence of all raccoons, skunks or foxes that are dead or appear sickly, paralysed, disoriented or abnormally aggressive. How to report: call 1 877 346-6763 or complete the [online form](#).

What to do about a bite, scratch or other contact?

- Citizens are asked to contact Info-Santé 811 for any question regarding possible exposure to an animal. In the event of exposure:
 - **Wash the exposed area for 10 to 15 minutes** with soap and water as soon as possible following contact.
 - **Call Info-Santé 811 promptly**, because vaccination could be indicated depending on the situation to prevent rabies from developing.
- If a child or an employee in day care or school is exposed to an animal (or if there is concern following exposure to an animal), notify the person in charge.
 - If there are questions regarding the situation, the person responsible for the establishment can contact the *Direction de santé publique* (the Department of public health) for expert advice.



- If someone has touched a bat or been touched by one and cannot rule out having been bitten, scratched, or had contact with saliva, the bat should be captured in a safe way to prevent it from coming in contact with anyone else. Consult the brochure: [Warning, wild animals can have rabies](#) - Publications du ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux.

A nurse at Info-Santé 811 will describe the steps to take if analysis of the bat is necessary.

For more info

You can consult:

Gouvernement du Québec (Québec.ca):

- [Rabies in animals](#)
- [Rabies in humans](#)
- [Preventing](#) health problems caused by bats
- [Rabies in animals: surveillance and control](#)

Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux (Publications):

- [Transmission de la rage par les chauves-souris](#) (French only)
- [Procédures à suivre pour le nettoyage d'un milieu contaminé par des déjections de chauve-souris](#) (French only)

Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) :

- [Notice to people concerned with the adoption of dog from Northern Québec](#)

Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP) :

- [List of municipalities targeted by the ban on relocating animals](#) (as of August 18, 2025)

Facebook page for the DSPu (Department of public health)

- <https://www.facebook.com/DSPMonteregie/>

Rabies in humans is rare; thanks to early intervention, no one in Quebec has had rabies since 2000!

DSPu de la Montérégie in collaboration with the MELCCFP
October 2025

