

- Do not feed or handle wild animals. Teach children that although a baby skunk or raccoon may look cute and friendly, it can be very dangerous.
- Report wild carnivores that are seen wandering about during the day. Do not handle or pick up animals of any species (wild or domestic) that are sick or acting strangely.
- Detain any animal that bites or behaves in an unusual manner (if possible) or get a good description of the animal (breed, color, size, sex, etc.). If a domestic owned animal, get name of owner, address and telephone and report it immediately to animal control.
- Cover your garbage cans, and don't leave pets' food outside where it can attract wild animals.
- Do not keep wild animals as pets. Not only is this dangerous for you and the animal, it's also against the law.
- Never handle a bat, especially with bare hands. Use thick gloves, tongs, or a shovel to remove a dead bat, or call in bat-removal experts. Don't crush the bat with a tennis racquet or other object.
- Do not let your pet play with bats.
- Do no touch or pick up dead animals.
- Avoid, If possible, situations where you or any other person may get bitten.

## Why we are here!

### To protect the public and animals.

We enforce Local, State and Federal animal laws. This ensures that people may enjoy living with knowing every resident and all pets will be protected under these laws.

### To assist in returning lost pets back home.

If your pet becomes lost, and is wearing a license or an identification tag at the time of impoundment, every effort will be made to notify you in person, by mail or by telephone. It is always best to put identification on your pet, as a tag is your pet's only voice. It is important to look for your pet at the animal shelter quickly.

### Animal adoption.

The Coastal Animal Services Authority makes every effort to ensure all pets find great, loving homes. We have all ages of dogs, cats, rabbits and sometimes other unique pets at the shelter. All pets are spayed, neutered, and vaccinated before leaving for a loving home. We have special adoption programs for some pets. Just ask the staffer the volunteers!

### Animal problems

For any animal related problems or complaints, call the Coastal Animal Services Authority at (949) 492-1617. If we cannot help you, we will direct you to the proper agency.

## Preventing Rabies



*San Clemente-Dana Point  
Animal Shelter  
221 Avenida Fabricante  
San Clemente, CA 92672  
949-492-1617*

## What is Rabies?

Rabies is a viral disease that affects the nervous system of mammals. In the last stages of the disease, the virus moves from the brain into the salivary glands and saliva. From there the virus can be transmitted through a bite or by contact with mucous membranes (nose, mouth, and eyes). Once the virus spreads through the body, it can kill the victims, if not treated quickly. The good news is that a vaccine can prevent rabies in humans, pets and livestock.

## How is Rabies Transmitted?

The bite of an infected animal is the most common. A scratch, abrasion, or open wound coming in contact with the blood or saliva of an infected animal is another. There are a few documented cases of rabies being contracted in caves where bats reside and in laboratories that work with the virus.

Bats can be dangerous carriers of rabies because their bite or scratch may be too small to notice. A bat's teeth and claws are so small that a bite may not bleed or even hurt. In fact, people sleeping in the same room where a bat is found, or children who have been alone in a room with a bat should see a doctor.

## What Animals can spread Rabies?

Mostly wild animals spread rabies. In the United States and Canada, rabies is usually found in raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, woodchucks, and bats. Domestic

animals like dogs, cats, ferrets, and farm animals can get rabies from wild animals. This is why it's so important to vaccinate pets and livestock. These are the animals that people are around the most. Pets and stray dogs and cats can act like a bridge between wild animals and people, bringing rabies from wild animals into your home.

Any mammal (animals that have fur and are warm-blooded) can get rabies. Birds, fish, snakes, and amphibians do not carry rabies. Although it is possible for rodents to get the disease, animals like mice, rats, and squirrels almost never carry rabies.

## What are the Symptoms of Rabies in People?

Early symptoms include irritability, headache, fever and sometimes itching or pain at the site of exposure. Early symptoms are rarely diagnostic. The disease eventually progresses to paralysis, spasms of the throat muscles, convulsions, delirium and death.

## What are the Symptoms of Rabies in Animals?

Changes in behavior are common in rabid animals: nocturnal animals are seen during the day, animals that are afraid of humans, become aggressive, attack other animals or people without provocation. May have paralysis of the limbs or throat, or just lay down.

## How to Prevent Rabies

Rabies precautions should be taken with all animal bites, particularly wildlife. Bats

and will carnivorous animals (skunks, raccoon, foxes, coyotes, and bobcats) are responsible for most cases of rabies in the United States today. Prevention of rabies is approached by immunization and/or by providing exposed persons with prompt medical care.

A healthy domestic dog or cat that bites a person should be confined and observed for 10 days and evaluated by a Veterinarian at the first sign of illness during confinement or before release. By law, all dogs four months or older must be vaccinated for rabies.

## How Can I Protect My Animals and Myself?

The best protection against rabies is vaccination of pets and avoidance of risk. Law requires vaccination of dogs and cats. Keep your pets indoors and maintain the vaccinations current.

- Do not feed or touch stray animals, and avoid all sick or strange-acting animals.
- Encourage enforcement of animal regulations including
  - (A) registration/licensing of dogs,
  - (B) stray animal control, and
  - (C) leash law