

Louisville Metro Vaccination-Licensing Animal Bite Requirements Vaccinations

Your dog, cat or ferret must be vaccinated against rabies by 4 months of age. The vaccination tags must be worn on the pet's collar.

Licensing

Every dog, cat and ferret in Louisville Metro must be licensed and wear the license on its collar at all times. Contact the Metro Animal Services at 502-361-1318 for details on licensing requirements.

Dog, Cat and Ferret Bites

If your pet bites or scratches someone, you must report the bite to the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness Rabies Program. An order to quarantine your pet will arrive in the mail with detailed instructions on what you are required to do. Please advise the Rabies Program if you have chosen to have your pet quarantined in a different location other than your home or if you have chosen to have it quarantined at the Metro Animal Services facility. Upon completion of the 10 day quarantine period, a representative from the Division of Environmental Health and Protection will visit your home to release your pet from quarantine. The pet will be released only if it appears healthy. If your pet has never been vaccinated against rabies or does not have a current vaccination, you will be issued an order to get your pet vaccinated against rabies.

Rabies Program
502-574-6640

Pet Telephone Directory

Louisville Metro Department of Public
Health and Wellness
Rabies Control.....502-574-6640

Metro Animal Services..... 502-361-1318

The Kentucky Humane Society
Animal Rescue League.....502-366-3355

Department of Fish and
Wildlife Resources.....1-800-858-1549

To report strays or animals
running loose.....502-363-6609

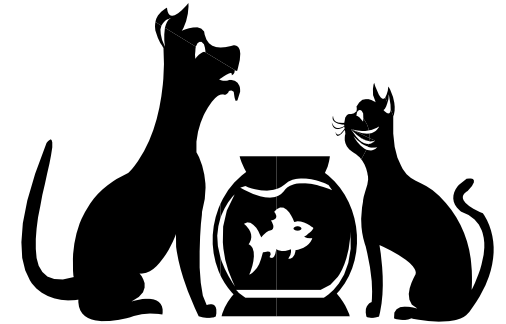
Avoid direct contact with stray
animals. Stray cats and dogs may not
have been vaccinated against rabies.

For more information on rabies
and animal bites : Call the
Division of Environmental Health
and Protection.....502-574-6650



<http://www.louisvilleky.gov/health>

You and Your Pet's Health



Know more about : Animal Bites Rabies Vaccinations

The life saved by a rabies
vaccination may be that
of your child or your pet !



Rabies is caused by a virus. An animal gets rabies from the saliva or usually from a bite of an animal that has the disease. You cannot get rabies from blood. Rabies can be found in mammals and occurs more often in wild animals. In Kentucky, rabies is mostly found in bats, skunks, and raccoons.

Your pet is at risk if it comes in contact with or is bitten by a rabid wild animal. This puts you and your family at risk for rabies if your pet; who might have been infected by a rabid animal, comes in contact with you.

There are two common types of rabies. One type is "**furious**" rabies. Animals with this type are hostile, may bite at objects, and have an increase in saliva. A pet that is usually friendly may snap at you and try to bite. Rabid animals may look like they are foaming at the mouth. This is due to the increased saliva in their mouth.

The second and more common form of rabies is known as paralytic or "**dumb**" rabies. An animal with this type is timid and shy. The animal often rejects food and has problems swallowing.

Animals in the early stage of rabies may not appear sick or have any signs. They can still infect you with rabies if they bite you.

If you think you have been bitten by a rabid animal, seek medical care immediately. You can get anti-rabies shots to fight off the disease. Rabies shots need to be given as soon as possible after a bite has occurred, before symptoms appear.

Animal bites can be a serious medical problem. Rabies is the biggest concern, but any bite or scratch that breaks the skin can cause a dangerous infection.

What to do if bitten by an animal?

- If the bite or scratch is minor, wash the wound with soap and water for at least five minutes. Serious or multiple bites and facial bites should be seen by a doctor for treatment.
- Instruct children to tell an adult immediately, when they are bitten by an animal.
- All dog, cat and ferret bites must be reported to the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness Rabies Program
To report bites : 502-574-6640 .
- Have the following information ready for the report:
 1. A description of the dog, cat or ferret ; **breed, size and color.**
 2. Date of the bite and location of the bite on the person's body.
 3. Name and address of the animal's owner, or the address of where the bite occurred.
 4. If the animal is a stray or running loose, contact Louisville Metro Animal Services : **502-363-6609**

Bites from bats are the main source of rabies in humans in the United States. It is possible, but rare that someone might be bitten by a bat and not know it. If you discover a bat in the house, especially in the room of a sleeping person, child or a mentally disabled person, treat this situation as though an actual bite has occurred. This is especially true if the bat is acting strangely (unusually tame).

Spaying or Neutering is Good for Your Pet

- Spaying or neutering helps dogs and cats live longer and healthier lives.

Spaying or Neutering is Good for You

- Spaying or neutering makes pets better, more affectionate companions.
- Unsterilized animals often exhibit more aggressive behavior and temperament problems.
- Spaying and neutering can make pets less likely to bite.
- Spaying and neutering can makes pets less likely to roam, looking for a mate. The result is that they stay home and have less chance of being involved in traumatic accidents such as being hit by a car or bicycle.

Spaying or Neutering Are Good for the Community

- Each year, between 6 and 8 million dogs and cats enter U.S. shelters; some 3 to 4 million of these animals are euthanized because there are not enough available homes for them.
 - The public health epidemic of dog bites which number more than 4.5 million each year is due in part to uncontrolled breeding of pets.
 - In 6 short years, 1 female dog and her offspring can give birth to 67,000 puppies.
 - In 7 years, 1 cat and her offspring can give birth to 420,000 kittens.
- Contact your local Metro Animal Services for more information on low-cost Rabies Clinics and Spay and Neuter programs. 502-574-361-1318**