

Rabies and Animal Bites

Santa Cruz County is a rabies endemic county. Rabies is most commonly found in wild animals--primarily bats and skunks. However, it is possible for other animals, wild or domestic, to become infected with rabies. For more information about rabies in California, go to: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/discond/Pages/rabies.aspx>.

Health care providers must report all animal bites of humans to the Animal Services Authority. Any person bitten by an animal, domestic or wild, should be evaluated for the possibility of rabies transmission (see the Rabies Exposure Guide on the following page). The Animal Services Authority and the Communicable Disease (CD) Unit are both available for consultation on management of persons bitten by animals as well as management of the biting animal.

REPORTING

WHAT: **Animal Bite**
HOW: Fax an Animal Bite Report
WHERE: Animal Services Authority
Phone: (831) 454 - 7303
Fax: (831) 454 - 7210
After Hours: (831) 471 - 1183

WHAT: **Rabies Exposure**
HOW: Call or fax a CMR
WHEN: Immediately
WHERE: Communicable Disease (CD) Unit
Phone: (831) 454 - 4114
Fax: (831) 454 - 5049
After Hours: (831) 471 - 1170

ANIMAL RABIES EXAM

The County of Santa Cruz Public Health Laboratory performs rabies tests on dead wild or domestic animals that have bitten a human, or died or been euthanized within 10 days of biting a human. There is a charge for the testing. Please contact Animal Services Authority or the Communicable Disease (CD) Unit for more information about this service.

***** Always call before bringing an animal to the laboratory *****

HOW: Bring recently deceased animal after calling

WHERE: HSA Public Health Laboratory
Phone: (831) 454 - 4652