**Rabies and Bats**

in South Carolina

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**Rabid Bats**

Percentages of Rabid Animals, 2014 - 2019

- Raccoon 48%
- Skunk 21%
- Fox 10%
- Bat 8%
- Cat 8%
- Dog 2%
- Other Domestic 1.5%
- Other Wild 1.5%

The majority of human rabies deaths in the US are from unreported bat exposures!

Every year, about 130 animals test positive for rabies in South Carolina.

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**Rabies Prevention**

- Bats have incredibly small teeth, so bites can easily go unnoticed.
- Never touch bats with your bare hands. Educate children on why they should not handle bats or other wild animals.
- Vaccinate pets against rabies. By law, all dogs, cats and ferrets should be vaccinated. Keep shots up to date, whether annually or as directed by a veterinarian.
- Prevent bats from entering homes or other buildings. Bats can fit through a hole that is as small as a quarter-inch by a half-inch, which is approximately the size of a dime!
- If there was human or pet exposure, have all bats captured and tested for rabies. Directions on how to safely capture a bat can be found on the CDC's webpage, or contact a pest control operator for assistance.

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**Dealing with Exposure**

**Types of Exposures:**

- Having direct contact with a bat;
- Finding a bat where children, pets or persons with impaired mental capacity have been left unattended;
- Waking up to find a bat in the room.

**If Exposure Occurs:**

1. Immediately wash bite/wound with soap and water.
2. Contact a health care provider, even for minor incidents.

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[www.scdhec.gov/rabies](http://www.scdhec.gov/rabies)