

# Rabies in the Treasure Valley



**TREASURE VALLEY**  
VETERINARY SERVICES

**(541) 372-2251**

## Relevant Background

- In September of 2019, a cat from **Owyhee county, Idaho** was confirmed positive for Rabies virus by the Idaho State Health Department after a 2 day history of erratic behaviors progressing to excessive drooling, and eventually death.

- This is the first time in **27 years** that Rabies has been confirmed in a domestic cat.

- A natural first question is, "but how did this cat acquire Rabies?!" Never fear, we have the information you need and more!

# About Rabies

# 6,000

Number of animal Rabies cases in the US annually

◇ Rabies is a virus that causes one of many zoonotic disease of concern- zoonotic diseases are those that can be transmitted from animals to humans. This transmission occurs primarily through **bites** as the virus is shed in the saliva of affected animals after travelling from a bite wound to the brain then to the salivary glands.

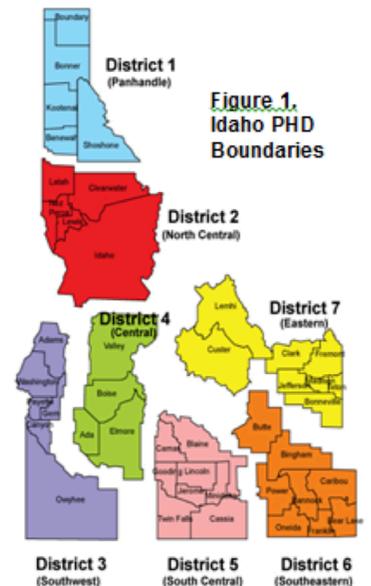
◇ Wild animals such as bats, raccoons, coyotes, and foxes are poster children for Rabies virus, BUT any mammal can be affected.

- Bats are the #1 reservoir of Rabies in Idaho

One of the most important aspects of Rabies is that it is virtually always **fatal**, making prompt treatment, prevention, and control imperative!

## Rules of Thumb:

1. If you find a dead wild animal or one acting inappropriately, DO NOT approach without further consideration; contact your veterinarian or local public health office for recommendations on how to proceed. To the right you can locate the local public health district that can assist you most readily!
2. If you are bitten by a suspect or confirmed Rabid animal, seek medical attention immediately; prompt care can save your life!
3. Vaccinate your animals 😊



## Rabies Vaccination and Pets:

- ◇ Vaccination: **\$65** (exam included) – a small price to pay for the protection of our beloved fur babies!
- ◇ Domestic animals bitten by wild animals must be quarantined; if the pet has been previously vaccinated, this quarantine is much shorter (45 days at home if vaccinated vs. 4 months in strict isolation if not)
- ◇ Vaccination helps reduce the risk of dissemination of the Rabies virus throughout local animal populations, thus reducing the risk of this fatal disease to humans as well.

## For More Information:

<https://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/DiseasesConditions/RabiesInformation/tabid/176/Default.aspx>

Thank you for your time; contact us today to schedule wellness exams and vaccinations for your animals!