

## To Report Lost, Injured, Wild or Stray Animals Contact:

### Clarington, including Courtice

Clarington Animal Services  
33 Lake Road  
Bowmanville, ON L1C 3A6  
905-623-7651

### Oshawa

City of Oshawa Animal Services  
919 Farewell Street South  
Oshawa, ON L1H 6N8  
905-436-3311 ext. 2480

### Pickering

Pickering Animal Services  
1688 Highway 7  
Pickering, ON L1Y 0A7  
905-683-7575

### Ajax

Town of Ajax Municipal Office  
Animal Services Department  
65 Harwood Ave., South  
Ajax, ON L1S 2H9  
905-683-8275

### Whitby

Whitby Animal Services Centre  
4680 Thickson Road North  
Whitby, ON L1R 2W9  
905-655-0283

### Townships of Uxbridge and Scugog

Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Control Centre  
1360 Reach Street  
Port Perry, ON L9L 1B2  
905-985-9547

### Brock Township

Township Office  
1 Cameron Street E., P.O. Box 10  
Cannington, ON L0E 1E0  
1-705-432-2355 or 1-866-223-7668



## To Report Human Contact with an Animal

### For Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa and Clarington

Durham Region Health Department  
Health Protection Division  
101 Consumers Drive, 2nd Floor  
Whitby, ON L1N 1C4  
905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729  
Fax 905-666-1887  
[durham.ca/rabies](http://durham.ca/rabies)

### For the Townships of Uxbridge, Scugog and Brock

Durham Region Health Department  
Health Protection Division  
181 Perry Street, 2nd Floor  
Port Perry, ON L9L 1B8  
905-985-4889 or 1-866-845-1868  
Fax 905-982-0840  
[durham.ca/rabies](http://durham.ca/rabies)



**Durham Health Connection Line**  
**1-800-841-2729**  
**Dial 311 (within regional limits)**  
**[durham.ca/rabies](http://durham.ca/rabies)**



If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

# Rabies...



**Animal Contact  
and Rabies  
Exposure  
Information and  
Guidelines for  
Durham Region**

The Durham Region Health Department investigates every case where a person is bitten or scratched by an animal because rabies is a serious and often deadly disease that is still found in wild animals. Domestic animals such as dogs and cats, could also get infected. This pamphlet is here to help anyone who has been bitten or scratched by an animal and may be exposed to rabies. It explains what steps to take and what to expect.

By following this guidance, you can help Public Health Inspectors do their job more effectively and possibly avoid the need for rabies treatment after exposure.

## Rabies is Contagious and Fatal

Rabies is a fatal but preventable disease caused by a virus that can spread to humans. Once symptoms appear, rabies is most always fatal. The virus usually spreads through direct contact with saliva from an infected animal, such as through a bite or scratch.

The incubation period is the time an animal contracts rabies to the first appearance of symptoms which can be as short as two weeks or longer than six months.



## Facts about Rabies



Each year, about 180 people in Durham Region receive anti-rabies treatment because of contact with a potential rabies positive animal such as wild animals or stray dogs and cats.

Public Health Inspectors investigate over 1,500 cases of possible rabies exposure to humans each year.

Both wild and domestic animals, including foxes, raccoons, skunks, bats, dogs and cats can spread the rabies virus. In recent years, bats have been the most common animal in Durham Region to test positive for rabies.

Rabies can be found in both rural areas (including farms with livestock) and in cities and towns across Ontario.

## Behaviour of Rabid Animals

An animal can have rabies and still look completely healthy. That's because the virus is already in the animal's saliva before it starts showing any signs of illness.

Rabies travels through the animal's nerves to the brain, and only then do symptoms – like strange behaviour – start to appear. This means an animal might be able to spread rabies even if it seems normal.

A rabid animal may exhibit one of the following forms of rabies:

**Furious Rabies** – an infected animal may act very aggressive, or anxious, and may attack or bite without provocation.

**Dumb Rabies** – an infected wild animal may act unusually tame or friendly. Pets may seem very tired or shy.

Physical symptoms may include weight loss, lack of coordination, paralysis, drooling or inevitably, death.

## If Bitten or Scratched by Any Animal

- **Immediately wash** the affected area(s) thoroughly with soap and water (first aid). Apply an antiseptic to the wound(s).
- **Seek medical attention** from a health care provider.
- **Immediately notify your local Health Department** and provide information to assist in locating and identifying the animal.
- **If the animal is located**, domestic animals are confined for a 10-day observation period to determine if they develop rabies.
- **Domestic animal will be tested** for rabies if it dies during the confinement period.
- **If the animal is not located**, the victim will be advised to consult with their health care provider concerning post-exposure anti-rabies treatment.



# Rabies, if untreated, is a fatal disease.