

# Rabies in Durham Region

## 2021-2025

Rabies is a viral disease that affects humans and other mammals

Quick Facts

On average,

# 1,565

animal incidents were reported in Durham Region each year between 2021 and 2025

Rabies is usually spread through contact with an infected animal's saliva



Animal incidents involving a break in human skin **must be reported to the health department**



Once symptoms appear, rabies is fatal



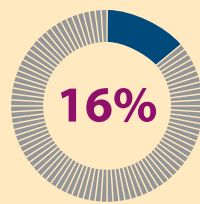
For more details see: [Ontario Ministry of Health, Management of Potential Rabies Exposures Guideline, 2020](#)

Six animals within Durham Region (all bats) tested positive for rabies between 2021 and 2025

Treatment



Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), including vaccine, will protect against rabies after an incident



PEP was provided in 16% of investigations

80%



The most common type of exposure that PEP was administered for was a bite or scratch

### Animal involved

33%



of PEP administered was for incidents involving dogs

25%



of PEP administered was for incidents involving bats

22%



of PEP administered was for incidents involving raccoons

13%



of PEP administered was for incidents involving cats

Prevention

### To avoid animal incidents and protect against rabies:

Vaccinate pets against rabies as required by law

Do not allow pets to roam unsupervised

Do not interact with stray or wild animals

Wildlife proof your house and yard



**Domestic animals involved in an incident must be confined for a 10-day observation period to determine if they develop rabies**

#### Data Sources:

- Durham Region Health Protection Information System, 2021-2025
- Ontario Ministry of Health, integrated Public Health Information System (iPHIS) database, 2021-2025

