### Rabies Symptoms

In humans, early symptoms are non-specific; flu-like symptoms can be experienced.

#### Later Symptoms Include
- Insomnia
- Hallucinations
- Anxiety
- Agitation
- Confusion
- Hyper-Salivation
- Paralysis
- Difficulty Swallowing
- Excitation
- Fear of Water

Death usually occurs within days of the onset of the symptoms.

#### Animal Symptoms Include
- Abnormal Behavior
- Difficulty Walking
- Staggering
- Overly Friendly
- Appearing Restless
- Choking
- Being Aggressive

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### Resources for Additional Information

- [cdc.gov/rabies](https://www.cdc.gov/rabies)
- [who.int/rabies/en](http://www.who.int/rabies/en)
- [georgiapoisoncenter.org/rabies](http://www.georgiapoisoncenter.org/rabies)

### Contact Information

#### Northwest Health District

nwgpublichealth.org/environmental-health/rabies/

**Bartow County**
100 Zena Drive SE
Cartersville, GA 30120
Telephone: (770) 387-2614

**Catoosa County**
182 Tiger Trail
Ringgold, GA 30736
Telephone: (706) 406-2030

**Chattooga County**
60 Farrar Drive
Summerville, GA 30747
Telephone: (706) 857-3377

**Dade County**
71 Case Ave. Ste H-100
Trenton, GA 30752
Telephone: (706)-657-4213

**Floyd County**
16 East 12th Street
Rome, GA 30161
Telephone: (706) 295-6316

**Gordon County**
310 N. River Street
Calhoun, GA 30701
Telephone (706) 624-1440

**Haralson County**
133 Buchanan Bypass
Buchanan, GA 30113
Telephone: (770) 646-4301

**Paulding County**
125 East Ware Street
Cedartown, GA 30125
Telephone: (770) 749-2253

**Walker County**
101 Napier Street
LaFayette, GA 30728
Telephone: (706) 639-2574

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**Northwest Georgia Public Health**

Inform. Prevent. Protect.
Rabies is a viral infection of the central nervous system, which ultimately causes disease and death.

In the United States, rabies occurs primarily in wild animals, namely coyotes, skunks, raccoons, foxes, and several species of insectivorous bats.

The rabies virus is transmitted in the saliva of infected mammals.

Exposure can occur in two ways:

- **Bite Exposure**
  - Any break of the skin by teeth. This is the most common.

- **Non-Bite Exposure**
  - Contamination of open wounds, mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth), or scratches.

### Prevention Tips
- Pets, including cats, ferrets, and dogs, should be vaccinated regularly.

- Keep pets confined or under direct supervision.

- Spay or neuter pets to reduce unwanted offspring.

- Keep garbage cans and pet food covered or inside of home.

- Call animal control to remove all stray animals from your neighborhood.

- Do not keep wild animals like raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes, and wolves as pets.

- Teach children not to go near, tease, or play with wild animals or strange dogs and cats.

### What To Do If Exposed

- Thoroughly clean any wounds immediately with soap and water to reduce the risk of rabies transmission and bacterial infection.

- Seek medical treatment, if necessary.

- Contact Georgia Poison Control at 1-800-222-1222 for rabies risk assessment.

- Follow-up with your local health department.