

Rabies Radio 2011

Child: Mom! Look at the cute raccoon in the yard! Can I go pet it?

Mom: No honey, raccoons can bite and some carry a dangerous virus called rabies.

Child: Rabies? How do you know if it has rabies?

Mom: Well, that's the problem. You and I can't tell if an animal has rabies just by looking at it.

Child: How do you get rabies?

Mom: You can get rabies if you are bitten by an animal carrying the disease. So never feed or pet wild or stray animals – even if they look cute and cuddly.

Announcer:

Rabies is reported mostly in wild animals like feral cats, skunks, bats, foxes, and raccoons. It is usually passed from animal to animal, but it can be passed from animal to people.

Rabies is 100% preventable when you take the proper precautions:

- Teach your children NOT to go near wild and stray animals, and NEVER keep them as pets.
- Vaccinate your dog, cat, ferret or horse to protect them against rabies.
- Don't feed your pets outside. The food may attract wild animals.
- Make sure your garbage is securely covered. Open garbage attracts wild and stray animals.
- Don't let your pets roam freely. Keep them in a fenced yard or on a leash at all times.
- Spay or neuter your pet to reduce its tendency to roam or fight.

Even if a wild or stray animal looks rabies-free, stay away! Rabies doesn't always look scary! You can't tell just by looking!

Prevent rabies: Vaccinate pets and avoid wildlife and strays.

For more information, visit EscambiaHealth.com.

Escambia County Health Department
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