

INFORMATION ON RABIES:

Rabies and Cats: A Deadly but Preventable Disease

Six human deaths from rabies have been reported in the U.S. over the past 12 months—the highest number in years, according to the CDC. While human cases are rare, this serves as an important reminder that rabies is still present and can be deadly.

Rabies is a virus that attacks the brain and nerves of animals and people. Once symptoms start, it is almost always fatal. The good news is that rabies is 100% preventable through vaccination. In the United States, cats are now the most common domestic animal to get rabies, even more than dogs. This usually happens when unvaccinated outdoor or stray cats are bitten by infected wild animals such as bats, raccoons, skunks, or foxes. Cats with rabies may act strangely, show odd behavior, have trouble walking, or become aggressive. Because rabies spreads through saliva—usually from bites—any cat that might have been exposed should be seen by a veterinarian right away. The virus doesn't live long outside the body.

Keeping cats vaccinated protects them, their owners, and the community.

















