



ONE HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE
IN COLLABORATION WITH
THE VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN

P R E S E N T S



THEME:

One Health, Zero Deaths



B R O C H U R E

What is Rabies?

Rabies is a zoonotic disease caused by the Rabies virus. Zoonotic diseases are infections that can be transmitted from animals to humans and vice versa. The Rabies virus can infect all warm-blooded animals including man. It majorly affects the brain and spinal cord, causing injury and abnormalities in the nervous system. Once the clinical signs of rabies start to show in a human beings, the condition is almost 100% fatal, causing death. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), approximately 60,000 individuals die of rabies infection every year.

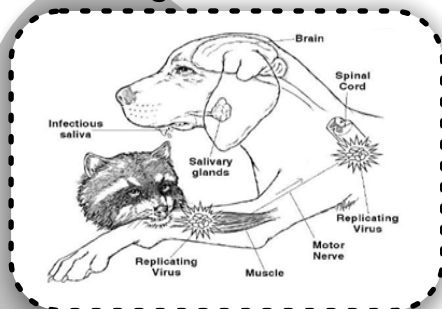
How do animals get rabies?

The Rabies virus is found in nerve tissues and salivary glands of infected animals. It may also be present in the urine and lymph, and (rarely, if ever) in blood, milk and other body fluids of infected animals.

Animals can be infected with rabies through:

- The exposure of rabies virus to broken skin (either through a bite or scratch wound or an existing wound)
- The mucous membrane of the eyes or mouth

Transmission and Pathogenesis of Rabies



SOURCE: WORCESTER HEALTH

Which animal does Rabies affect?

Some animals are considered reservoirs for the rabies virus and are often responsible for transmission of the virus to humans. Dogs are the main domestic reservoir hosts for rabies and are the most implicated in human rabies transmission. Fruit bats may also serve as reservoirs for rabies in various parts of the world and affect both domestic and wild animals.

How do humans get Rabies from dogs?

Humans get rabies following a bite or scratch from an animal (not necessarily a dog) infected with rabies. People also get infected with rabies when saliva of a rabid animal comes into direct contact with human mucosa. Rarely, individuals can also get rabies through bites from infected humans. In up to 99% of cases, domestic dogs are responsible for rabies virus transmission to humans.

Can Rabies lead to death?

Rabies is 99% fatal as soon as signs and symptoms appear.

Signs of Rabies in animals

Clinical signs of rabies develop within 15-25 days of exposure to the virus. At this stage, infected animals are difficult to control, and they show signs of itching at the bite wound. Animals infected with the rabies virus will snap at imaginary objects and bark at the slightest provocation. They are often irritable, vicious, aggressive, and anxious. They experience extreme pain when water is swallowed and will be very fearful of water (a condition called hydrophobia). They would also produce a high amount of saliva. Later, as the disease progresses the animal will show incoordination, weakness, seizures, and will eventually die.

A Rabid Dog



SOURCE: GRAPHICS ONLINE

Symptoms of Rabies in Humans

In humans, the first symptoms of rabies start with feelings of weakness, fever, or headache. There will also be an itchy feeling at the site of the bite. Symptoms then proceed to nervous signs such as: anxiety, delirium, hallucinations, insomnia, foaming at the mouth, hydrophobia (extreme fear of water and pain when water is swallowed), extreme rage, and eventually, death.

There is no known effective treatment for rabies. Therefore, once a rabies infection is established, treatment is usually no longer possible. For that reason, if you think you've been exposed to rabies, you must get a series of anti-rabies shots to prevent the infection from taking hold and progressing to clinical signs.

Prevention and Control of Rabies in Humans and Animals

Puppies and Kittens should be vaccinated against rabies when they are 12 weeks old, and this should be repeated every year.

- If any dog is suspected to have rabies, a veterinarian should be notified immediately. In such dogs, euthanasia (mercy killing) will be carried out on such dogs with clinical signs of rabies
- Avoid contact between susceptible dogs and rabid dogs
- Prevent animals (especially dogs and cats) from straying and quarantine newly acquired dogs.
- Conduct mass routine vaccination of dogs and control of stray dogs

What do I do if I'm bitten by a dog?

If an individual is bitten (or licked or scratched) by an animal with unknown vaccination history (especially a dog), the first thing that should be done is to wash the bite site with an antiseptic soap

over running water.

The individual should then visit the nearest hospital with immediate effect, where they can receive 3 doses of the anti-rabies vaccine (ARV) usually over a period of 28 days. Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) would also be administered.

If you witness or hear any case of dog bite, or any dog acting erratic, hypersalivating and acting aggressive out of the usual, you should do one or more of the following:

- Visit the nearest veterinary hospital near you to report the dog and the human
- Visit the nearest human clinic/hospital near you to report the dog-bite get ARV for the human
- Ensure you report ANY case of dog bites or erratic dog behaviours by calling, texting, or sending a WhatsApp message to OHDI on **+234-916 506 8270**. If you are unsure, our veterinary medical representatives will provide you with guidance on what to do and where to go to report and/or receive immediate treatment.

RABIES VACCINATION IS FREE AT THE VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL, UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN, IBADAN, NIGERIA

One Health and Development Initiative is a non-profit organization that works to address inter-related issues of human, animal, and environmental health through the integrated One Health approach. Our key work areas span across main contributors to One Health which include Zoonoses, Animal welfare, AMR, Environmental Health, and Conservation and Biodiversity.

CONTACT US



www.onehealthdev.org



One Health and Development Initiative



@onehealthdev



One Health and Development Initiative



@onehealthdev



+2349165068270





HDI

One Health & Development Initiative

