



Rabies Communications and Resource Guide

Background

Bats with rabies are identified throughout Utah, including Davis County, every year. This serves as an important reminder to keep your pets' vaccinations up to date and avoid touching bats (or other wild animals) that may carry rabies.

Rabies is a virus that affects the brain and nervous system. It has fatal consequences if not treated immediately, which includes pre-exposure vaccination for pets and post-exposure vaccinations for individuals. The virus spreads to humans and pets through the saliva of an infected animal, usually through a bite or scratch.

In Utah, bats are the most common carrier of the rabies virus. Skunks, raccoons, foxes and unvaccinated cats and dogs can also carry the disease.

Talking points

Below are some recommendations to protect yourself, your family, and your pets:

- Keep your pet's vaccinations up-to-date. Check your pet's vaccination status with your veterinarian and put your records where you can access them quickly.
- Stay away from wild animals. Call the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources for assistance if it appears sick, injured, or is acting strangely. (Northern Regional Office: 801-476-2740).
- Act quickly if you are bitten or scratched by a bat or other wild animal.
 - Immediately wash the wound with soap and water and see your healthcare provider.
 - If possible, safely contain the bat and contact the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources so it can be tested for rabies.
 - If the bat cannot be tested for rabies, it is recommended to immediately begin post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Report any interactions with a bat found in a sleeping area.
 - Any exposure to a bat in a sleeping area is considered an exposure due to their ability to spread the virus through extremely small bites or scratches. These bites or scratches are not always visible to the naked eye.

Local contacts to report biting incidents, stray animals, or other wildlife include:

- Animal Care of Davis County, 801-444-2200 (if a domestic animal has been exposed)
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, 801-476-2740 (if a human has been exposed or identified wildlife issues)

If you think you have had an exposure, contact Davis County Health Department or a healthcare provider who can help determine if treatment to prevent rabies is needed.

- Davis County Health Department, 801-525-5220

Data:

- About 15 to 16 positive bats in Utah every year on average
- About 2 to 3 positive bats in Davis County each year on average
- In 2024, there were 4 positive bats found in Davis County (31 total statewide)

Social Media Accounts to Follow and Share Content:

Davis County Health Department

Facebook: [Davis County Health](#)

Instagram: [@DavisCountyHealth](#)

Animal Care of Davis County

Facebook: [Animal Care of Davis County](#)



Instagram: [@acdcpets](#)

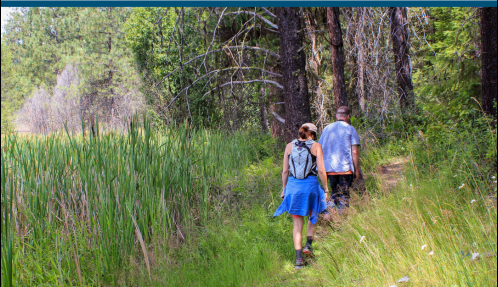



Utah Department of Health and Human Services

Utah DREAM & HAI/AR (Disease Response, Evaluation, Analysis, & Monitoring program and Healthcare-Associated Infections program)

Instagram: [@utah.disease.response](#)

Social Media Templates

Graphic	Text
 <p>What is Rabies?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A deadly virus that affects the brain and nervous system • Spread through the bite or scratch of an infected animal 	<p>Rabies has fatal consequences if not treated right away.</p> <p>If you think you've been exposed, contact Davis County Health Department to help determine if treatment is needed: 801-525-5200</p> <p>If you think your pet has been exposed (even if they are vaccinated), call Animal Care of Davis County: (801) 444-2200</p>
 <p>Protect you and your loved ones from rabies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep your pet's vaccinations up-to-date. • Stay away from wild animals. • Act quickly if you are bitten or scratched by a bat or other wild animal. 	<p>Bats with rabies are identified in Utah every year, including Davis County.</p> <p>This serves as an important reminder to keep your pets' rabies vaccinations up-to-date.</p> <p>If you think your pet has been exposed (even if they are vaccinated), call Animal Care of Davis County: (801) 444-2200</p> <p>Always avoid touching bats (or other wild animals).</p> <p>If you think you've been exposed, contact Davis County Health Department to help determine if treatment is needed: 801-525-5200</p>

<p>What are the most common carriers of the rabies virus?</p> <p>Bats are the most common carrier of the rabies virus in Utah.</p> <p>Other top carriers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skunks • Raccoons • Foxes • Unvaccinated cats • Unvaccinated dogs 	<p>Stay away from wild or unfamiliar animals--no matter how cute they may be! They could be carrying the rabies virus.</p> <p>If the animal appears sick, injured, or is acting strangely, contact the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Northern Regional Office: (801) 476-2740.</p>
<p> Act quickly if you are bitten or scratched by a wild animal.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wash the wound with soap and water. • See a doctor right away. • If possible, safely contain the animal. • Contact Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. 	<p>Each year on average, 2 to 3 bats in Davis County test positive for the rabies virus.</p> <p>In the event of a possible exposure, safely contain the bat/animal and call the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Northern Regional Office: (801) 476-2740. (We recommend adding this number to your phone).</p>
<p> Report any interactions with a bat found in a sleeping area.</p>  	<p> Bats can spread the rabies virus through even the smallest bites or scratches. Sometimes you can't even see them!</p> <p>If you think you've been exposed, contact Davis County Health Department (801-525-5200) or a doctor. Rabies is almost always fatal if not treated right away.</p>

Resource Links

- [Davis County Health Department Website \(Home Page\)](#)
 - [DCHD Communicable Disease/Epidemiology Web Page](#)
- [Davis County Animal Care and Control Website](#)
- [CDC - Rabies Website](#)
- [Utah Department of Health and Human Services Website](#)
 - [Rabies Fact Sheet](#)
 - [Rabies exposure assessment too](#)