

Animal Disturbance

This procedure should be implemented when the presence of a dog, coyote, mountain lion or any other wild animal threatens the safety of students and staff.

General Procedures

1. Notify office and administration.
- 2. Keep students away from the animal (return to classroom, secure all entrances to classroom, etc.).***

IC Responsibilities

1. Call 911 and/or Animal Control.
2. Attempt to isolate the animal from students, if it is safe to do so. If the animal is outside students will be kept inside. If the animal is inside, students will remain outside in an area away from the animal.

Rabies

Rabies is a serious disease that is caused by a virus. Each year, it kills more than 50,000 people and millions of animals around the world. Rabies is a big problem in Asia, Africa, and Central and South America. In the United States, rabies has been reported in every state except Hawaii. Any mammal can get rabies. Raccoons, skunks, foxes, bats, dogs, and cats can get rabies. Cattle and humans can also get rabies. An animal gets rabies from saliva, usually from a bite of an animal that has the disease. You cannot get rabies from blood.

Rabies in Animals

Animals with rabies may act differently than healthy animals. Wild animals may move slowly or act tame. Also, some wild animals, like foxes, raccoons, and skunks, that normally avoid porcupines, may receive a face full of quills if they become rabid and try to bite these prickly rodents. A pet that is usually friendly may snap at you and try to bite.

There are two common types of rabies. The first type is called "furious" rabies. Animals with this type are hostile, may bite at objects, and have an increase in saliva. In the movies and books, rabid animals foam at the mouth. In real life, rabid animals look like they have foam in their mouth because they have more saliva.

The second and more common form is known as paralytic or "dumb" rabies. An animal with "dumb" rabies is timid and shy. It often rejects food and has paralysis of the lower jaw and muscles.

Signs of rabies include:

- ***Changes in an animal's behavior***
- ***General sickness***
- ***Problems swallowing***
- ***An increase in drool or saliva***
- ***Wild animals that appear abnormally tame or sick***
- ***Animals that may bite at everything if excited***
- ***Difficulty in moving or paralysis***
- ***Death***

Animals in the early stage of rabies may not have any signs, although they can still infect you if they bite you. The incubation period is the time from the animal bite to when signs appear. In rabies, it is usually 1-3 months. But it can last as long as several years. Once the virus reaches the brain or spinal cord signs of the disease appear.

Rabies in Humans

In humans, signs and symptoms usually occur 30-90 days after the bite. Once people develop symptoms, they almost always die. This is why it is very important for children to tell an adult and go to the doctor right away if they have been bitten by an animal that might be rabid.

Early symptoms of rabies include fever, headache, sore throat, and feeling tired. As the virus gets to the brain, the person may act nervous, confused, and upset.

Other symptoms of rabies in humans include:

- ***Pain or tingling at the site of the bite***
- ***Hallucinations***
- ***Hydrophobia ("fear of water" due to spasms in the throat)***
- ***Paralysis***

As the disease advances, the person enters into a coma and dies.