



Lake County Health Department Rabies Information Sheet

Rabies is a deadly disease that can be prevented but not cured. The virus attacks the nerves and brain tissues of warm-blooded animals including humans.

Anyone that has experienced an animal bite should:

1. Immediately wash the wound with soap and water for five to ten minutes.
2. Try to get a complete description of the animal and determine where it is so that animal control can pick it up for quarantine or rabies testing.
3. **Go to your family doctor or the nearest emergency room immediately.** When medical treatment is received for an animal bite, the doctor or emergency room staff will report the incident to Lake County Health Department Disease Control staff at 352-357-1668.

Medical treatment (vaccination) to prevent rabies may be recommended if the animal cannot be located and tested or if the animal is tested and found to be rabid. Vaccinations must be given on 4 different days within a 14 day period and based on a specific dosing schedule. **The treatment for rabies can cost over \$1,000.00.**

Anyone receiving treatment for Rabies through Lake County Health Department will be screened by our Eligibility Department to determine qualification for any assistance programs regardless of insurance status. To be screened make sure to bring the following:

- Identification
- Proof of income
 - i. Pay check stub
 - ii. Unemployment Statement
 - iii. Self Employment Log Book
 - iv. Child Support
 - v. Social Security
 - vi. Bank Statement
- Proof of residency
- Social Security Card

Anyone not completing eligibility and submitting required documentation will be responsible for the cost of the treatment, which may exceed \$1,000.00.