



General Info about Rabies

Rabies is a zoonotic viral disease, which infects domestic and wild animals. It is transmitted to other animals and humans through close contacts with saliva from infected animals (ie. bites, scratches, licks on broken skin and mucous membranes). Once symptoms of the disease develop, rabies is fatal to both animals and humans. Each year, it kills more than 50,000 people and millions of animals around the world.

What are the causes of Rabies?

Rabies is caused by a virus. Usually transmitted to humans through the bite from an infected animal (rabid dogs) and less frequently by cats. An animal gets rabies from saliva, usually from a bite of an animal that has the disease. You cannot get rabies from blood.

Action of virus

The virus enters the muscles to the nerves and goes via the spinal cord to the brain, where it multiplies before spreading from there to the salivary glands, lungs, kidneys etc.

What are the symptoms of Rabies?

The first symptoms of rabies are usually non-specific and suggest involvement of the respiratory, gastrointestinal and/or central nervous systems. Fever and headache following pain and tingling at the site of the bite could be first symptoms. Ten Days later, marked anxiety, agitation, or depressive features develop. Hallucinations, bizarre behavior and paralysis may occur. Increased excitability is the hallmark of the condition. Hydrophobia (fear of water) is present in half the

patients. Aero phobia (fear of fresh air) is considered characteristic feature of rabies. The patient goes on to develop fits and respiratory paralysis. Death usually occurs within 10-14 days. Death occurs during the first seven days of illness without intensive care.

More Valuable information about Rabies:

How to prevent rabies?

Vaccinate your dogs, cats, and ferrets against rabies. Keep your pets under supervision.

Do not handle wild animals. If you see a wild or a stray animal, especially if the animal is behaving strangely, call an animal control officer.

If you do get bitten by an animal, wash the wound with soap and water for at least 5 minutes.

Make sure you tell an adult and call your doctor to see if you need shots.