

## Rabies

**What is it:** Rabies is an infectious disease that can affect all species of warm-blooded animals, including man.

**Who is at risk:** people traveling or living in developing countries where rabies is more common, including:

- countries in Africa and Southeast Asia
- Those who do activities that are likely to put you in contact with wild animals that may have rabies, such as exploring caves where bats live or camping without taking precautions to keep wild animals away from your campsite
- Those working in a laboratory with the rabies virus
- People with wounds to the head, neck or hands, which may help the rabies virus travel to your brain more quickly

**Cause:** Infected animals can spread the virus by biting another animal or a person

**Symptoms:** Fever, Headache, Nausea, Vomiting, Agitation, Anxiety, Confusion, Hyperactivity, Difficulty swallowing, Excessive salivation, Fear of water (hydrophobia) because of the difficulty in swallowing, Hallucinations, Insomnia, Partial paralysis

**How is it diagnosed:** At the time a rabid animal bites you, there's no way to know whether the animal has transmitted the rabies virus to you. For this reason, treatment to prevent the rabies virus from infecting your body is recommended if the doctor thinks there's a chance you have been exposed to the virus.

**Complications:** Death

**Did you know?** Rabies causes thousands of deaths every year despite the existence of tools that can prevent and manage the disease

Source/s:

[www.webmd.com](http://www.webmd.com)

[www.mayoclinic.com](http://www.mayoclinic.com)

[www.medlineplus.gov](http://www.medlineplus.gov)