

Harris County
HCPHES
Public Health & Environmental Services

Umair A. Shah, M.D., M.P.H.
Executive Director
2223 West Loop South
Houston, Texas 77027
Tele: (713) 439-6000
Fax: (713) 439-6080

Michael A. White, D.V.M., M.S.
Division Director
Veterinary Public Health
612 Canino Rd.
Houston TX 77076
Tele: (281) 999-3191
Fax: (281) 847-1911

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On the afternoon of April 11th 2015, a bat was found under a tree in the Newport Subdivision Community Park, on the North side of San Jacinto River. The bat tested positive for rabies.

At this time, HCPHES is not aware of any human or animal contact with this bat. Any person or animal having contact with this bat may need medical care to prevent them from developing rabies.

Bats have small, sharp teeth so you may not know you have been bitten. That is why it is so important to determine if there was any contact with this bat. If you touched the bat or know of anyone or any pet that may have had contact with the bat, please call Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) Veterinary Public Health (VPH) at 281-409-7338 as soon as possible.

The following are some facts about rabies:

What is Rabies?

Rabies is a serious and deadly disease that attacks the central nervous system. Rabies can be prevented by getting appropriate medical care before symptoms begin.

What animals get rabies?

All warm-blooded animals, including humans, can get rabies. Dogs, cats, and livestock usually get rabies from wild animals. In Texas, the 5 wild animals most likely to transmit rabies are bats, skunks, raccoons, foxes, and coyotes.

How is rabies spread?

You get it by being bitten or scratched by an animal that has rabies. Typically, though, rabies is spread when a wild animal bites and infects a dog or cat, which could be the family pet.

How can you keep from getting rabies?

- Avoid all animals that are not your pets, especially skunks or bats that you see during the day.
- Report all animal bites or scratches that break the skin to your area animal control agency.
- Maintain current rabies vaccinations on all dogs and cats four months of age and older.
- Confine all pets or keep them on a leash.
- Report loose animals to Animal Control.
- Catch bats involved in bites or close contact with humans so they can be tested for rabies. Do not throw them away or delay contacting VPH.

If you think you may have touched the bat, contact HCPHES VPH at 281-409-7338 as soon as possible. If you have any questions about this incident, please feel free to contact the Newport Subdivision Community Center office at _____. For more information about rabies in general, contact HCPHES VPH at 281-999-3191 or visit the website at http://www.hcphe.org/divisions_and_offices/veterinary_public_health/rabies/

