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Rabies and Bats in South Carolina

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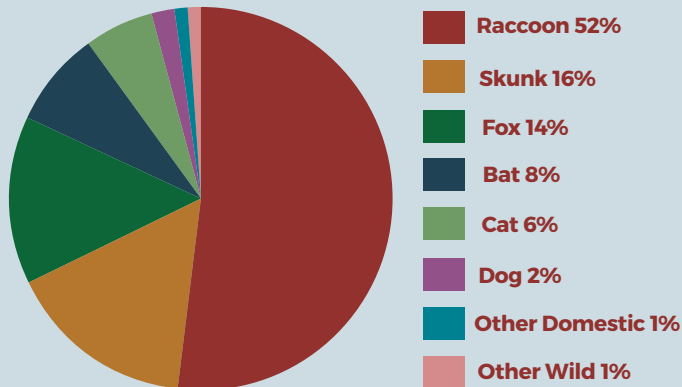
Rabies and Bats

in South Carolina



Rabid Bats


Percentages of Rabid Animals, 2002 - 2022



The majority of human rabies deaths in the US are from unreported bat exposures!

Every year, about 148 animals test positive for rabies in South Carolina.

Rabies Prevention



Bats have incredibly small teeth, so bites can easily go unnoticed.



Never touch bats with your bare hands. Educate children on why they should not handle bats or other wild animals.



Vaccinate pets against rabies. By law, all dogs, cats and ferrets should be vaccinated. Keep shots up to date, whether annually or as directed by a veterinarian.



Prevent bats from entering homes or other buildings. Bats can fit through a hole that is as small as a quarter-inch by a half-inch, which is approximately the size of a dime!



If there was human or pet exposure, have all bats captured and tested for rabies. Directions on how to safely capture a bat can be found on the CDC's webpage, or contact a pest control operator for assistance.

Dealing with Exposure

Types of Exposures:

- Having direct contact with a bat;
- Finding a bat where children, pets or persons with impaired mental capacity have been left unattended;
- Waking up to find a bat in the room.

If Exposure Occurs:

1. Immediately wash bite/wound with soap and water.
2. Contact a health care provider, even for minor incidents.
3. Notify your local Environmental Affairs office. Visit [scdhec.gov/ea-regional-offices](https://www.scdhec.gov/ea-regional-offices) to find your local office.