



May is Rabies Awareness Month

INFORMATION for WORKPLACES

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May is Rabies Awareness Month and the perfect time to remind employers and employees of their responsibility in preventing the spread of rabies in the workplace through:

- providing rabies awareness education to employees;
- reducing the exposure of employees to wild and domestic animals;
- providing personal protective equipment (impermeable gloves, eye protection, long pants and sleeves) to any employees handling potentially rabid animals;
- and the promotion of pre-exposure rabies vaccinations for employees at high risk of rabies exposure.

Employers in Northwestern Ontario play an important role in informing their employees about the risks of exposure to rabies.

QUESTIONS ABOUT RABIES?

Contact a Public Health Inspector
at one of these
Northwestern Health Unit offices:

KENORA

807-468-3147 OR 1-800-830-5978

DRYDEN

807-223-3301 OR 1-888-404-4231

FORT FRANCES

807-274-9827 OR 1-800-461-3348

Reporting Of Animal Exposures

The Northwestern Health Unit maintains a 24-hour emergency after-hours system for receiving and responding to any suspected rabies exposures. Report every potential animal bite and potential rabies exposures to your supervisor and then immediately to the NWHU by calling:
1 (807) 468-7109.

Rabies in Bats

Bat rabies has accounted for 58% of the human rabies cases in the United States since 1980, and 6 of the 7 cases of rabies in Canada since 1970 have been attributable to bats. (PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA)

Although the incidence of animal rabies in Canada has been decreasing and human rabies is rare, rabies can be transmitted through a bite or exposure to a rabid bat. Employees should avoid any contact or handling of bats and avoid working in areas inhabited by bats. All bat exposures should immediately be reported to the Northwestern Health Unit for further risk assessment. A public health inspector will then determine whether or not the individual requires post-exposure vaccination.



EMERGENCY ON-CALL NUMBER: 1 (807) 468-7109