

# *Learning to Make Rabies History!*



Connecting Classrooms  
Globally through World Rabies Day!



# World Rabies Day, 2007

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- Take 1-minute to think and write down the answers to the following questions:

*What do you already know about rabies?*

*Why is it important to have a World Rabies Day?*

# Why is learning about rabies important?



- Rabies is 100% preventable yet at least 55,000 humans die from rabies each year around the world, mostly from exposure to dogs.
- A person dies of rabies almost every 10 minutes.
- Almost half of all rabies deaths occur in children under the age of 15 years.
- Many developed countries have vaccines for animals and humans to prevent rabies. These countries might only have a few deaths each year.



# What you will know and be able to do after this lesson:



- Why rabies is important
- The history of rabies and what it is
- Which animals are most likely to have rabies
- How you could be exposed to rabies
- The symptoms of rabies
- How to prevent rabies infection



# What is Rabies?



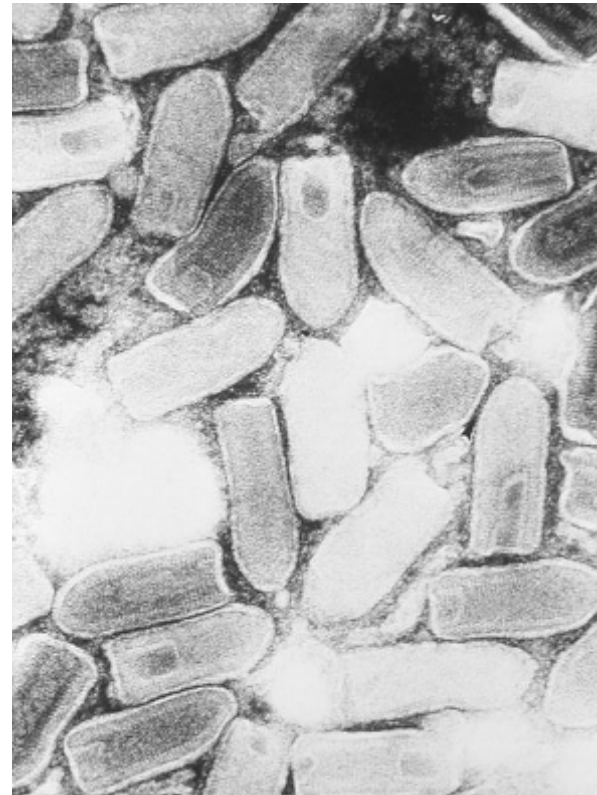
- Rabies has been around for over 4,000 years!
- If someone is sick with rabies, nearly 100% of the time, it will result in death.
- Rabies is caused by a **virus**.



# What causes rabies?

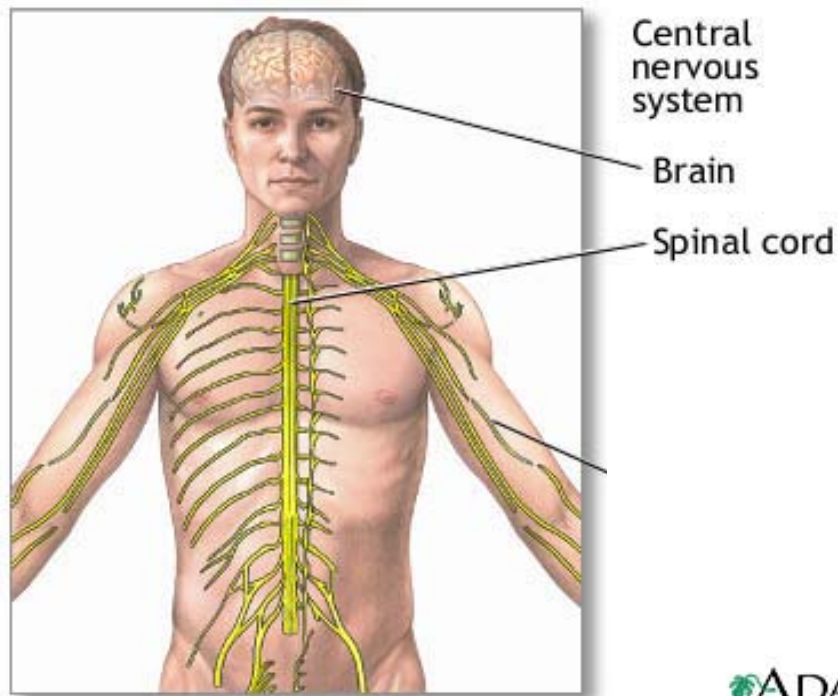


- Rabies is caused by a virus which is a microorganism smaller than a bacteria.
- A virus cannot grow unless it is inside a living cell.
- The rabies virus can get into your body and attack your **central nervous system**.



*Picture of rabies virus: Rabies virus is shaped like a submarine.*

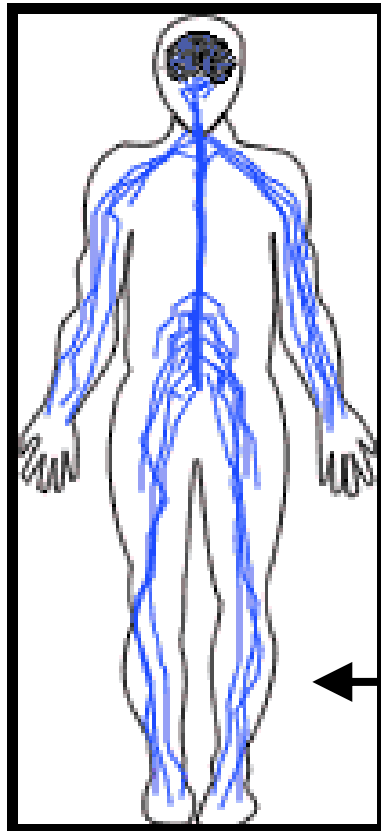
# What is the Central Nervous System?



ADAM.

- The central nervous system includes the brain and spinal cord.
- A healthy nervous system is necessary for everything we do: thinking, feeling, seeing, breathing, swallowing, eating, moving, and talking.

# Rabies attacks the Central Nervous System



- Watch as the rabies virus from an exposure on the leg spreads up the spinal cord to the brain and throughout the rest of the body.

Rabies virus entering the body.

# How do people get rabies?



- When animals are sick with rabies, their personality changes:
  - Rabid animals may want to bite you and or other animals.
  - Timid animals that get rabies may no longer be afraid of you.
- You can get rabies when an animal with rabies bites you.
- Rabies in dogs is still a big problem in many parts of the world.



# What kind of animals get rabies?

- The rabies virus can infect all **mammals**.
- **Mammals** are warm-blooded animals that have hair and mammary glands to produce milk for their babies.
- Animals like frogs, birds, and snakes do not get rabies.





# Symptoms

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- Headache, fever, sore throat
- Nervousness, confusion
- Pain or tingling at the site of the bite
- **Hallucinations**
  - Seeing things that are not really there
- **Hydrophobia**
  - "Fear of water" due to spasms in the throat
- **Paralysis**
  - Unable to move parts of the body
- Coma and death

# Bats & Rabies



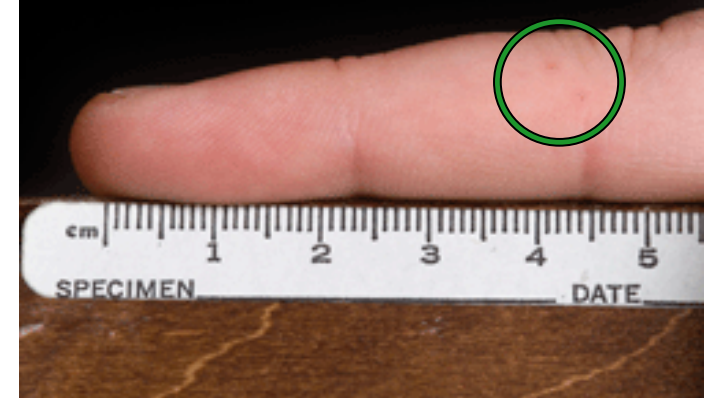
- The main source of rabies in humans in North America is from bats.
- Bat bites can be very small.
- Some people may not realize that they have been bitten.



## Prevention:

- Don't handle bats.
- If you wake up in a room with a bat, tell your parents and call your local health department and your doctor.

A small bat bite on a finger



# What to do if you are bitten by an animal:



- Wash the wound well with soap and water.
- Tell your parents.
- See a Doctor, even if the bite is very small.
- Contact your local health department and animal control officer.



# Prevention after Exposure



- Anti-rabies shots can prevent the disease.
  - At first, 1-3 shots of antibodies are given around the bite.
  - Then, five shots of vaccine are given in the arm over 30 days.
  - Rabies shots help your body make powerful antibodies that kill the virus.



Rabies vaccine being given in the arm.

# Protect Yourself from Rabies



- Vaccinate your pets against rabies.
- Avoid stray pets or wild animals.
- Always ask an owner or adult before petting a dog, cat or other type of animal.
- Never adopt wild animals or bring them into your home.



# Potential Activities

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*Develop a public service announcement about rabies:*

- Imagine you are a veterinarian, write a convincing advertisement that will encourage your clients to get their pets vaccinated against rabies.
- You have been asked by the media (newspaper, radio, or TV) to write a public service announcement for teenagers that will develop an understanding of the risk of rabies and how to prevent the disease.



# To Learn More



- World Rabies Day Website:
  - [www.worldrabiesday.org](http://www.worldrabiesday.org)
- US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Rabies Website:
  - [www.cdc.gov/rabies](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies)
- CDC's Kids Rabies Website:
  - [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/kidsrabies/](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/kidsrabies/)
- World Health Organization
  - [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)
- Pan American Health Organization
  - <http://www.paho.org/english/ad/dpc/vp/rabia.htm>
- Alliance for Rabies Control
  - [www.rabiescontrol.org](http://www.rabiescontrol.org)

