

Rabies Exposures July 28, 2023

The Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) is advising healthcare providers regarding the increase in reported rabies to the Illinois Department of Public Health in bats throughout the state of Illinois. To date there have been 27 rabid bats reported in the state. While there have been no reported bat or human rabies cases for 2023 in Winnebago County, the potential exists and providers should review reporting, treatment, and prophylaxis protocols.

If a rabies exposure is suspected, Healthcare Providers should **contact the Winnebago County Health Department at 815-720-4050:**

Before calling WCHD, gather the following information in the table below:

Note: Decisions to start Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) will be based on the type of exposure, type of animal exposed to, and whether the animal is available for testing.

Type Of Exposure	Exposure Was	Type Of Animal - Domestic	Type Of Animal - Wild	Animal Captured	Animal Tested
Bite	Provoked	Dog	Bat	Yes	Yes
Scratch	Not provoked	Cat	Raccoon	No	No
Woke up to		Ferret	Skunks	Unknown	Unknown
Other		Exotic Pet	Other		

WCHD will provide guidance and access to PEP if indicated based on the information provided.

Additional Resources:

- General Rabies Information: [WCHD Rabies Info](#)
- Information for Healthcare Providers: [Information for Healthcare Providers](#)
- Rabies statistics in Illinois: [Rabies Surveillance Map](#)