

# **RABIES ADVISORY NOTICE**

## **Connecticut Department of Public Health and Addiction Services Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection**

If you live in Connecticut and have had contact with the saliva of a wild animal, you may have been exposed to rabies. Please read the information provided below about rabies.

If you or a member of your family has been exposed to a potential rabid animal, you should contact your physician and/or local Health Department for additional information regarding the possible exposure and the need for treatment.

### ***WHAT IS RABIES?***

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that lives in the saliva of a rabid animal. It is a disease that can infect all warm-blooded animals, including man.

### ***WHAT ANIMALS GET RABIES?***

Raccoons, bats, foxes, skunks, unvaccinated dogs and cats, and some unvaccinated farm animals are most likely to get rabies. Squirrels, chipmunks, opossums and muskrats seldom get it. Beginning in the spring of 1991, raccoons have been the most common animal effected by rabies in Connecticut.

### ***WHAT ARE THE SIGNS OF RABIES IN AN ANIMAL?***

The first sign of rabies is usually a change in the animal's behavior. An animal may lose its fear of people and become unnaturally friendly, or it may become abnormally aggressive. The rabies virus is usually present in an animal's saliva after it develops symptoms, however, it can also be present in the saliva of an apparently healthy animal.

### ***HOW DO PEOPLE GET RABIES?***

People are usually exposed to the rabies virus through the bite of an infected animal. People can also be exposed to the rabies virus by:

- Being scratched by an infected animal
- Getting an infected animal's saliva into a cut or open wound
- Getting the saliva into the eyes, nose or mouth

If rabid, even baby animals with no visible teeth can transmit rabies through their saliva.

### ***WHAT WILL THE WILDLIFE REHABILITATOR DO WITH THE WILD ANIMAL YOU BROUGHT IN?***

The Wildlife Rehabilitator listed below has agreed to house and care for the animal. If it is determined that the animal should be tested for rabies, the Rehabilitator will comply with all recommendations set forth by the local Health Department.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Rehabilitator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Telephone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Evening Telephone Number

### **LOCATION WHERE ANIMAL WILL BE KEPT:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town