



## *The First Ten Plays*

### HOW TO REDUCE YOUR RISK TO RABIES\*

- **First identify what the rabies risks are in your community. Find out if there are problems with outbreaks in local wildlife populations and where these populations are located. This could include feral dogs and cats, as well as wild raccoons, fox, and bats.**
- **Identify what animals and pets you have that need to be vaccinated for rabies. A listing is available online of all state laws at:**  
<http://vaccines.dogsadversereactions.com/files/RabiesLaws.pdf>
- **Talk to your local animal control office about how they control wild and feral animals that may be subject to rabies infection, and how to contact them if you encounter a rabid animal.**
- **Talk to your veterinarian about your pets and about vaccinations. Vaccinate your pets and livestock as needed against rabies and keep the shots current.**
- **Reduce the risks to your pets by keeping them from roaming, especially into wild land areas.**
- **Avoid contact with wild animals while out with your pets. Do not keep wild animals as pets.**
- **Water and feed your pets indoors. Keep garbage containers sealed outdoors. Fence your yard if you live in a wild land area.**
- **Bat proof you house in fall and winter with wire mesh and boards.**
- **If you are bitten or exposed, wash the area immediately with soap and water and go directly to your doctor. If it was a wild animal, inform animal control to work toward its capture. If it was your pet, restrain it for collection and observation by animal control. The pet should be monitored for 10 days. If no illness occurs, then the animal did not have rabies and it is not necessary for you to get rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.**
- **Check with the State Department, the CDC, and your travel agent before going overseas to verify if it is a high risk area for rabies that may require a vaccination before traveling there.**

*\* These are not listed in order of importance but as a group of materials that will increase the possibility of positive outcomes.*

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