



# Safety & Environmental Newsletter



March 2018 Issue – 77th Edition

## GETTING TO KNOW RABIES

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that attacks the nervous system. It infects the brain and the spinal cord of mammals. Most of the cases of rabies occur in wild animals. In recent years, cats have become the most common domestic animal infected with rabies. Rabies also occurs in dogs and cattle in significant numbers and has been diagnosed in horses, goat, sheep, swine and ferrets. Animals with rabies may show a variety of signs, including fearfulness, aggression, excessive drooling, difficulty swallowing, staggering, seizures, depression, self-mutilation, or increased sensitivity to light. Most of the relatively few, recent human cases in this country have resulted from exposures to bats. For humans, there may not be any immediate symptoms, but weeks, or even months after a bite, rabies can cause pain, fatigue, headaches, fever, and irritability. These are followed by seizures, hallucinations, and paralysis. Human rabies is almost always fatal.

A person who is exposed and has never been vaccinated against rabies should get 4 doses of rabies vaccine. They should get another shot called Rabies Immune Globulin at the same time as the first dose. A person who has been previously vaccinated should get 2 doses of rabies vaccine and Rabies Immune Globulin is not needed. If you have been exposed to rabies virus, you should get the vaccine regardless of any other illness you may have, or even if you are pregnant. Persons having allergy to foods should receive the human diploid cell rabies vaccine (HDCV) or Rabies Vaccine, Adsorbed (RVA) rather than the Purified Chick Embryo Cell vaccine (PCEC).

### **Procedures to prevent rabies propagation:**

- Vaccinate your dog, cats, ferrets, and select horses and livestock
- Keep cats and ferrets indoors, and supervise dogs when they are outside
- Don't leave exposed garbage or pet food outside, it may attract wild animals
- Teach kids never handle unfamiliar animals
- Wild animals acting strangely need to be reported to the city or county animal control department
- Bat-proof your home and other structures

### **Procedures if your pet has bitten someone:**

- Urge victim to see a physician immediately
- Check if your pet's vaccinations are up-to-date
- Report the bite to the local health department and animal control authorities
- Report any illness or unusual behavior by your pet to the local health department and to your veterinarian
- Don't let your pet stray and don't give your pet away
- After the observation period, have your pet vaccinated for rabies if its vaccination is not current

### **Procedures if a human has been bitten:**

- Wash the wound thoroughly and vigorously with soap and lots of water
- Call your physician immediately and follow doctor's advice
- If possible, confine or capture the animal safely, call the local animal control authorities to collect it. if capture is not possible, try to memorize its appearance and where it went after biting you
- Report the bite to the local health department

### **Procedures if your pet has been bitten:**

- Consult your veterinarian immediately and report the bite to local animal control authorities
- Even with current vaccination, get it revaccinated
- Keep your pet under owner's control and observed for a required period (normally 45 days). Home confinement may be allowed
- If not vaccinated, may need to be euthanized or placed in strict isolation for six months

- What you should know about Rabies (June 2008). Worcester County Health Department and American Veterinary Medical Association. [Worcesterhealth.org](http://Worcesterhealth.org); [avma.org](http://avma.org)
- Rabies Fact Sheet (May 2002). Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene
- Vaccine Information Statement, Rabies (10/6/2009). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- Important information about postexposure (PEP) rabies Prophylaxis (Aug 2011) Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases



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## EARTH DAY 2018 END PLASTIC POLLUTION REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, REMOVE WWW.EARTHDAY.ORG

### ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE BY THE BBC:

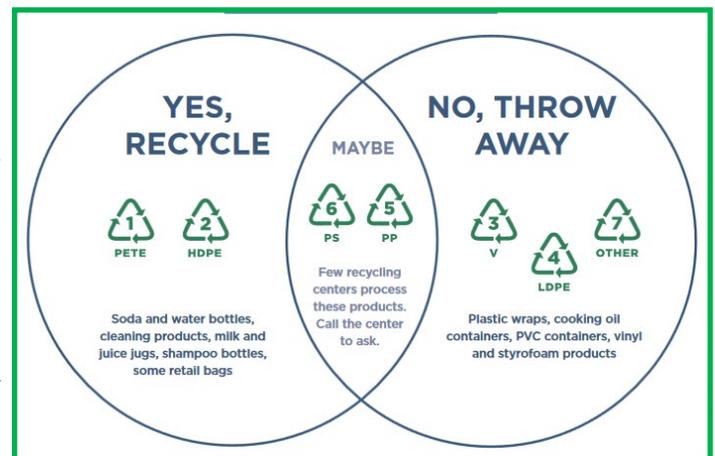
- 8.3 billion metric tons (9.1 billion US tons) of virgin (non-recycled) plastic has been produced to date.
- Generating 6.3 billion metric tons (6.9 billion US tons) of plastic waste.
- 9% of that waste has been recycled.
- 12% has been incinerated.
- The remaining 79% (5.5 billion US tons) of plastic waste has accumulated in landfills and the natural environment.
- 12 billion metric tons (13.2 billion US tons) will enter landfills or the environment by 2050 if current production and waste management trends continue.

Do you know why marine life is so disproportionately impacted by plastic pollution? It's because it can cause harm to them in so many different ways. Many marine organisms can't distinguish common plastic items from food. Animals who eat plastic often starve because they can't digest the plastic and it fills their stomachs, preventing them from eating real food. Birds and other larger animals often become trapped or ensnared in plastic bags, fishing line, and other debris. Sea turtles specifically are highly susceptible. They both mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, and frequently are trapped in plastic debris, restricting their growth and movement. Plastic never fully degrades, over time it breaks into smaller and smaller pieces. Eventually it becomes small enough to enter the bloodstream of marine organisms. Since the organisms cannot ever digest or process the plastic, it remains present until the organism is eaten. This passes all the plastic on to its predator, which is usually fish. If that fish is caught, then the plastics will be passed on to whichever human consumes it.



To read the complete story and learn about more about the harmful side of plastic, plastic pollution in the ocean, microplastics, plastic pollution and health or tips to reduce, reuse, recycle, and remove, check out the Plastic Pollution Primer and Action Toolkit at

<http://www.earthday.org/wp-content/uploads/Plastic-Pollution-Primer-and-Action-Toolkit.pdf>



**WFF EARTH DAY  
THURSDAY APRIL 19, 2018  
11:00 - 1:00  
PICNIC PAVILION**



- Exhibitors Include: CBFS, VRMC, NRCS, VIMS, SWCD, and much more
- Food will be available for purchase: Hot dog, Chips, Drink \$4.00

### WFF SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING



Look for these in your building and at the picnic pavilion to recycle your paper, cardboard, plastic (#1 and #2), metal, and glass.