

The background of the slide is a dark gray gradient. It is decorated with numerous black silhouettes of bats in flight, scattered across the left and right sides of the frame. The bats are shown in various orientations, some with wings spread wide, others in more compact positions, creating a sense of movement and a spooky atmosphere.

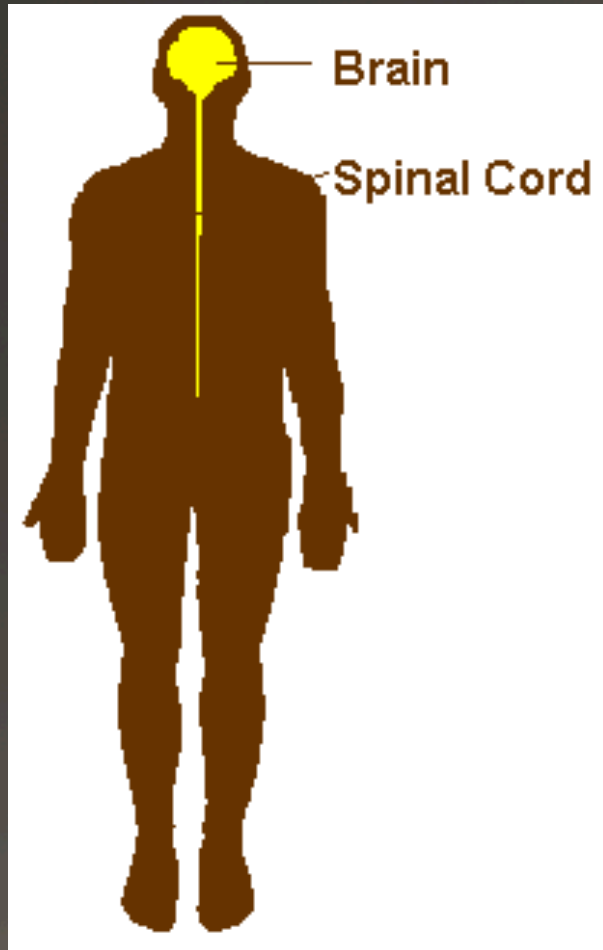
# Bat Rabies

Created by Lexi Peterman for Poe Health Center camps in North Carolina, USA

# Bats, the Environment, and You!

- Bats are very important to our ecosystem! They are pollinators, and also carry plant seeds from one place to another.
- They help us by eating mosquitoes and bugs that destroy crops.
- But many people don't know that bats can be dangerous to humans and pets if they have...
- Rabies!

# What is rabies?

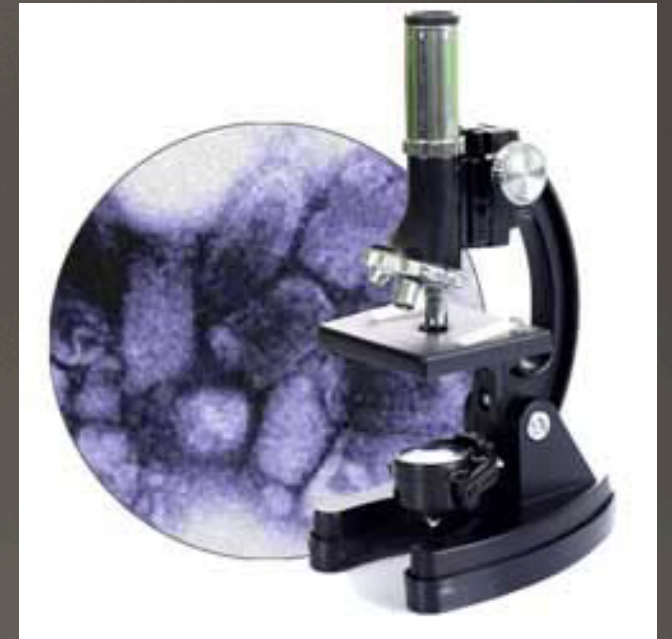


- Rabies is a serious infection that makes it hard for your body to do things like walk or breathe.
- A person usually gets rabies after being bitten or scratched by an animal that carries the rabies virus.



# All about rabies

- You can get rabies if an animal that is infected with the virus (such as a bat or any other mammal) bites or scratches you.
- Any mammal can get rabies, and they can pass the virus to each other.
- The rabies virus makes your body stop working.





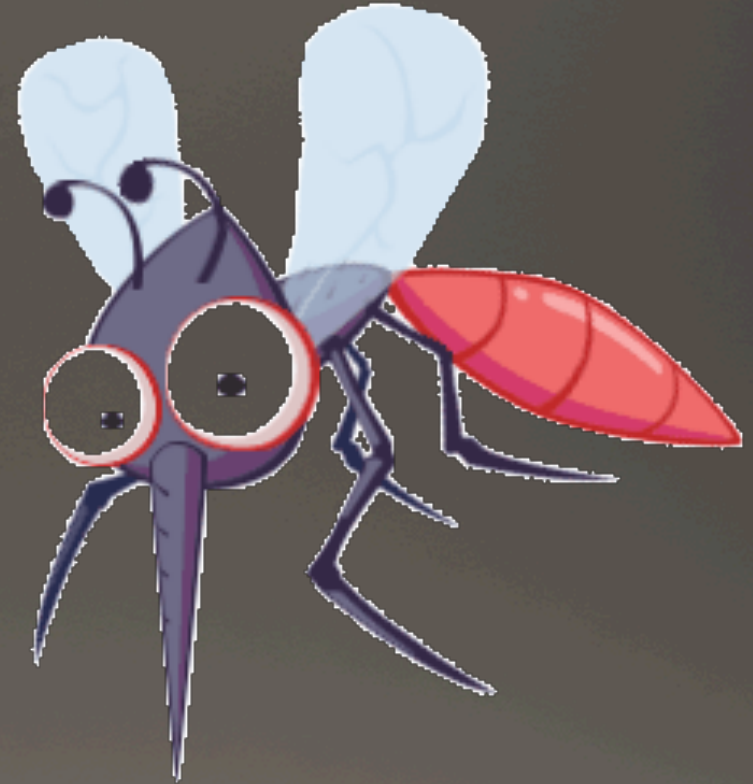
# Why are we focusing on bats?



- Most human cases of rabies in the United States are caused by bats.
- Bats can enter homes easily through:
  - Chimneys
  - Attic vents
  - Loose fitting doors
  - Open windows

# Why are bats important?

- It is important to keep bats alive because they play an important role in the environment!
- Some plants rely completely on bats for pollination or to spread their seeds.
- Bats also help control pests by eating insects.
  - One of their favorite insects to eat is the mosquito!



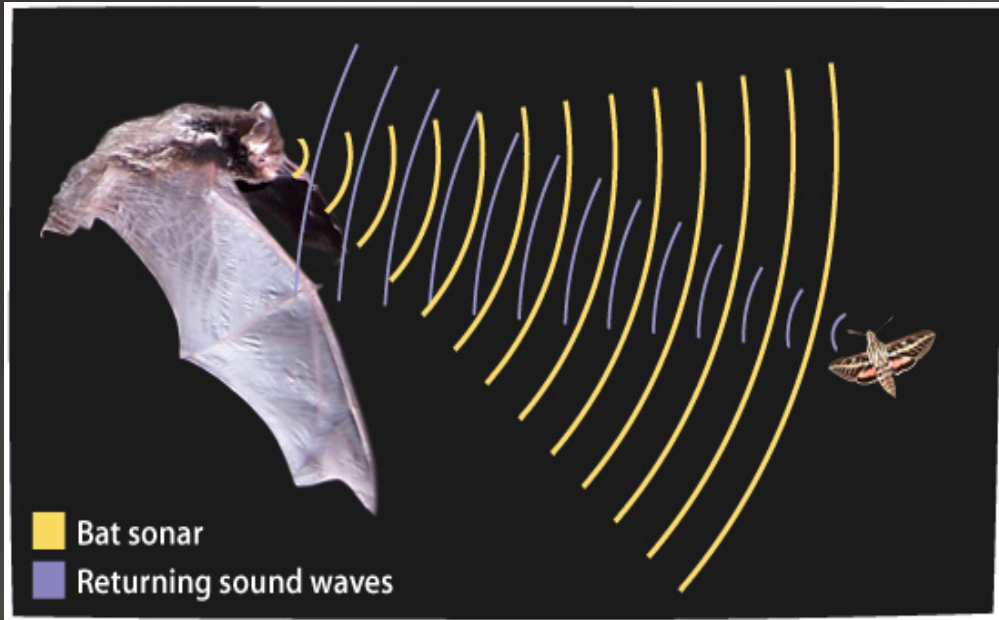


# About bats





# Normal bat behavior



- Bats are nocturnal, which means that they are most active at night.
- They feed on fruit and insects.
- They use echolocation to “see.”

# Unusual bat behavior

- They are active during the daytime.
- They cannot fly.
- They are flopping on the ground.
- They are making unusual sounds.





# Never touch a bat!



- Sometimes it is hard to tell if a bat is rabid or not.
- You should never touch a bat with your bare hands!
- It is best to just leave it alone, or if it is acting strange, have your parents call your local animal control or police department.



# What a rabid bat may look like



# What a rabid bat may look like



# How to avoid rabies

- Don't touch or go near a bat!
- If you see a bat that is acting strangely, tell your parents, or call the police or animal control.

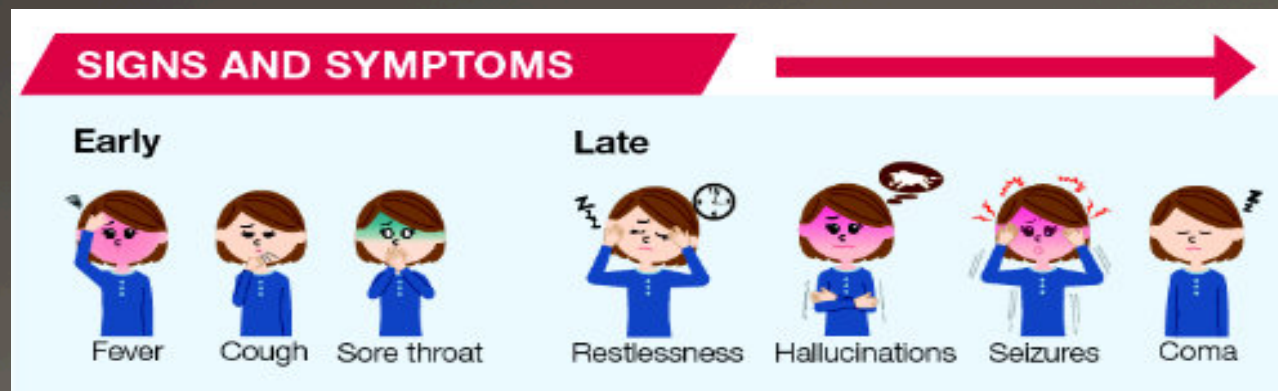
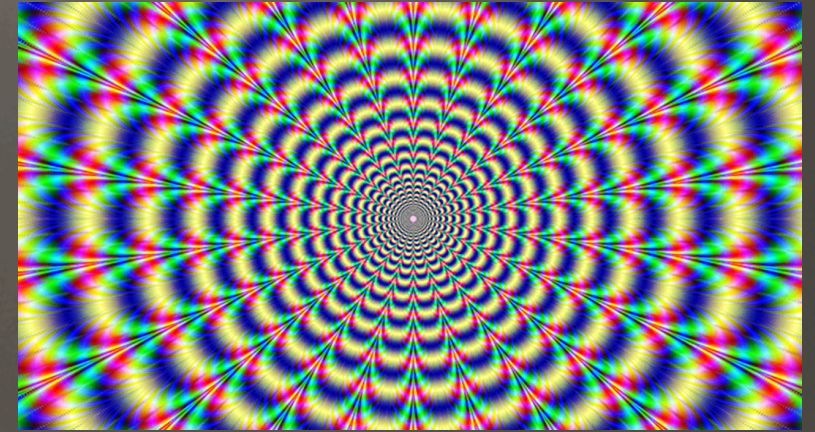




# Symptoms of rabies

If someone has been bitten by an animal and thinks that they may have rabies, some symptoms are:

- Headache, fever, and sore throat.
- Nervousness and confusion.
- Pain and tingling near the bite or scratch.
- Hallucinations.
- Hydrophobia.
- Paralysis.
- Remember: The best thing to do is prevent rabies exposure!





# What to do if you've been bitten...

- Wash your wound thoroughly and get to a doctor immediately.
  - Your doctor and the health department will do a risk assessment to decide if PEP (the rabies vaccine) is needed.
  - In the case of domestic animals like dogs and cats, the animal can be observed in quarantine for 10 days to determine if you are at risk of getting rabies from that animal - no testing needed!





# Protect yourself from rabies

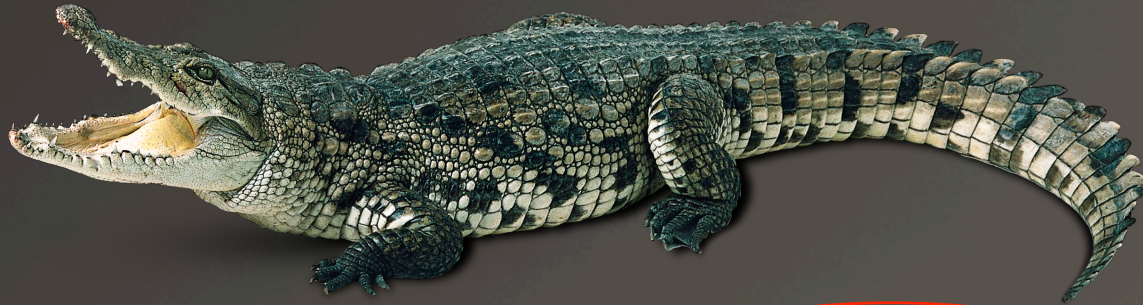


- Never approach bats, even if they look cute or friendly.
- Have your pets vaccinated.
- Sealing outdoor trashcans won't necessarily keep bats out, but it will prevent other animals (such as raccoons) that can carry rabies from being attracted to your home.

Test your memory!



1. Which of these animals could get rabies?





2. If a bat looks normal and doesn't appear to have rabies, should you touch it?

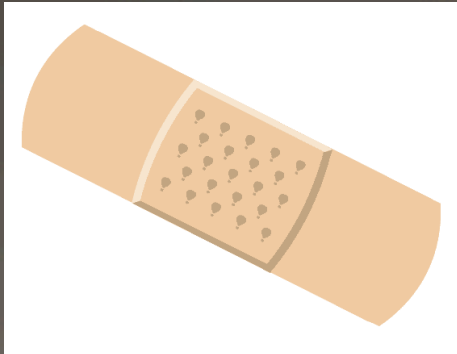
a. Yes, it's always okay to touch a bat!

b. No, you should NEVER touch a bat!

### 3. What should you do if you are bitten by a bat?



- a. Don't do anything. You'll be fine.
- b. Put a bandage on the bite and wait to see what happens.
- c. Go to the doctor or to a hospital immediately to get the rabies vaccine.



## 4. What is one symptom of rabies?

- a. Hydrophobia
- b. Being very hungry
- c. Having trouble remembering things





# 5. Which is unusual behavior for a bat?

- a. Not being able to fly
- b. Being active at night
- c. Using echolocation to find food

