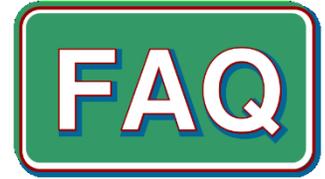




**COWLITZ COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
DEPARTMENTS**



RABIES – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (revised 9/13/19)

Question: Where in Cowlitz County were the bats located that tested positive for rabies?

Answer: They were found in the Castle Rock area

Question: What kind of bats were tested and came back as positive for rabies?

Answer: 1 “little brown bat” (*Myotis lucifugus*) and 1 “big brown bat” (*Eptesicus fuscus*)

Question: Were the bats found dead or alive?

Answer: Both bats were found dead

Question: What happened to the dogs that were found with the bats?

Answer: Both dogs have been euthanized

Question: Did the dogs that have to be euthanized, was that the only choice?

Answer: The owners of the dogs could choose to quarantine the dogs for 6 months, or euthanize them

Question: Were the dogs that were found with the bats vaccinated against rabies?

Answer: No, neither dog had been vaccinated

Question: What about the people that were exposed to the rabid bats?

Answer: The people are being seen by their medical provider

Question: How can I protect my pet from rabies?

Answer: Pets may get rabies if bitten by a rabid animal. Protect them by getting them vaccinated routinely. Dogs, cats, and ferrets are required to be vaccinated in Washington State. Consult your veterinarian for vaccine recommendations.

Question: I know I have bats on my property, what can I do to protect myself and my family?

Answer: Keep bats out of your living space by “bat proofing” your home; including screening windows and doors if left open, closing chimney dampers when not in use, and sealing any gaps in doors. You can visit our rabies webpage at www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/rabies. It contains useful resources on how to reduce the risk of rabies exposure.

Question: Can the Health Department come get rid of the colony of bats I have on my property?

Answer: Unfortunately we are not able to help you get rid of bats. You can look online for companies that can provide that service. You can visit our rabies webpage at www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/rabies It contains useful resources on how to reduce the risk of rabies exposure.

Question: I think I got bit by a bat, what do I do?

Answer: Contact your healthcare provider and the Health Department at 360-414-5599.

Question: I saw a bat in my house when I woke up last night, what do I do?

Answer: Contact the Health Department at 360-414-5599

Question: I think my pet was playing with a bat, what do I do?

Answer: Contact the Health Department at 360-414-5599

Question: Can I bring an animal to the Health Department to be tested for rabies?

Answer: The Health Department does not test animals, however, you may contact the Health Department at 360-414-5599 to see if the animal meets the criteria for being tested by a third party lab.