



News Release

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Rabid Bat Found in Morgan County Home

There has been a confirmed rabid domestic bat found in Morgan County. A woman had been sleeping when she felt something on her upper arm and swatted at it. She realized it was a bat when it flew across the room. She called the Fort Morgan Police Department, they responded, captured the bat, and sent it in for Rabies testing. Fortunately, all of the pets in the home were current on their rabies vaccinations so they do not need further treatment. The victim of the bat encounter immediately started Post-Exposure Prophylaxis to prevent the onset of the rabies virus.

Vaccinating your pets, and keeping those vaccinations current are the first line of defense to keep your family safe. If pets are unvaccinated, and is exposed to a known rabies reservoir (skunk, bat, fox, or other wild animal) it is recommended for the pet to be euthanized. Otherwise, a strict 180-day quarantine is enforced; the first 90 days of which will be at an approved facility at the owner's/keeper's expense.

Rabies is a virus that affects the nervous system of humans and other mammals, resulting in a fatal disease. The most common route of rabies transmission is from the bite or scratch of a rabid animal; however, transmission can also occur through contact with saliva or nervous system tissue of a rabid animal with eyes, nose, mouth, or an open cut or wound. Signs of rabies in animals can include abnormal behavior like being active in the day for nocturnal species, approaching humans or other animals without fear, aggressive behavior, difficulty walking and unusual vocalization.

Prevent possible exposure to rabies by keeping pets' rabies vaccinations up to date; leaving wildlife alone, especially if ill or injured; and not taking in or feeding stray animals, particularly feral cats. If you suspect a family member or pet has been bitten or scratched, or if you find a bat in your home, contact the local police department, your medical provider, or the Northeast Colorado Health Department immediately. For more information, visit www.nchd.org/rabies or call 970-522-3741.

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