

- Report any wildlife behaving in strange ways or any contact with a potentially rabid animal to a park employee as soon as possible.
- To report possible exposure to rabies, contact your local health department.
- For emergency information regarding possible rabies exposure, please contact the New York State Department of Health at (518) 473-8600 or your County Health Department.

**Nassau**

*Daytime: (516) 227-9663*

*After Hours: (516) 742-6154*

**Suffolk**

*Daytime: (631) 853-3055*

*After Hours: (631) 853-4820*



**LONG ISLAND STATE PARK HEADQUARTERS**

P.O. BOX 247, BABYLON, NEW YORK 11702 (631) 669-1000

**Have fun in the park,  
but remember . . .**

- Wildlife infected with rabies have been found in New York State.
- For your safety, do not feed, attract, touch or harass wildlife.
- Rabies is fatal to humans, but it can be prevented if people who have been exposed seek treatment promptly.
- Report any oddly behaving raccoons or other wild animals, or any bites, scratches, or other contact with a wild or domestic animal to a park official right away.
- Keep your pet on a leash, and do not leave it unattended.

**“I’m Cute  
and  
I Bite!**



**And I may  
have rabies.”**

## Rabid Raccoons are in the area.

The Mid-Atlantic Rabies Outbreak in raccoons, which began in Virginia in 1977, has spread into New York State. A red fox rabies outbreak has also entered northern New York from Canada. Other animals have become infected as well, including skunks, occasional opossums, woodchucks, deer and other animals. Bats can also be infected with rabies.

Unvaccinated dogs, cats and livestock can get rabies from infected wildlife. Small rodents rarely develop rabies and birds are not affected.



## What is rabies?

Rabies is a disease of the central nervous system in mammals. It is caused by a virus.

Rabies is usually spread from one animal to another (and to humans) through bites. The virus is transmitted in the infected animal's saliva.

## Is it fatal?

Yes, if the disease is allowed to develop in the person or animal infected. If you are exposed to rabies from a wild or domestic animal, you must get treatment right away to prevent the development of the disease. Once symptoms appear, it is too late to treat you. Fortunately, no one has died from raccoon rabies since the 1950's, when records were begun.

## Don't worry.

Most wild animals are not rabid. By being careful and sensible, you should have a restful, happy vacation without contact with rabid wildlife. Rabies is preventable if a person gets treatment promptly after contact with a rabid animal.

## Can you tell if an animal is rabid?

No. However, some rabid animals act abnormally. Raccoons and skunks which come out during the day, which are particularly bold or aggressive or which look sick, disoriented or partially paralyzed, may have rabies. Please report any wildlife behaving in strange ways to a park employee.

## Report bites right away.

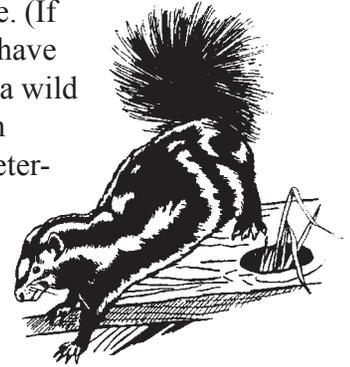
If you or your pet is bitten, scratched or has other contact with a wild or domestic animal, contact a park employee right away. This is essential to protect your health. If it is determined that the offending animal is or may be rabid, rabies shots may be necessary. Rabies shots are no longer the series of painful shots that they once were.



## For you safety...

Do not feed, attract, touch or harass wildlife. Raccoon and other animals in parks may seem tame, but they are still wild. Rabid raccoons sometimes lose their natural fear of people.

Do not leave out food, coolers, camp dishes or other objects which will attract wildlife. (If utensils appear to have been disturbed by a wild animal, wash them thoroughly with detergent and water before use.) It is not safe to handle dead animals.



## Keep your pet on a leash.

Dogs are particularly likely to tangle with raccoons or other park wildlife. Therefore, dogs must be on a leash at all times when outdoors in the park, and must not be left unattended at any time.

If your dog or cat should have contact with a raccoon or other animal, do not handle your pet. There may be infectious saliva from the wild animal on your pet's head or fur. If you have handled your pet, wash your hands immediately. Proof of rabies vaccination must be available for all pets brought into state parks. After contact with a rabid animal, vaccinated pets must get a rabies booster shot within five days. Unvaccinated pets must be quarantined or destroyed.

Contact a park official as soon as possible if your pet has had contact with a potentially rabid animal.