



Rabies

What is Rabies?

Rabies is a viral illness that attacks the central nervous system and is fatal. It occurs primarily in warm blooded animals (both domestic and wild) and is transmitted to man, usually by a bite from an infected animal.

How is Rabies spread?

The rabies virus is found in the saliva of an infected animal and can be transmitted to humans by a bite or scratch, or when saliva comes in contact with broken skin or mucous membranes, ie eyes, nose or mouth.

How can you avoid Rabies?

Contact with wild and domestic animals when travelling should be avoided where possible.

- Do not attempt to pick up an unusually tame animal or any animal that appears to be unwell
- Do not attract stray animals by offering food
- Be aware that certain activities may attract dogs, ie running, cycling

If bitten or scratched by an animal whilst on holiday, you should:

- Immediately wash the wound with soap and running water for at least five minutes
- Seek medical advice about the need for rabies vaccination and possibly antibiotics to prevent wound infection.

Vaccine recommendations

There is a vaccination available for those considered at risk when travelling. This consists of three injections. However, they are given prior to travel to allow you extra time to reach medical treatment for further injections which will be needed following a bite by an infected animal.