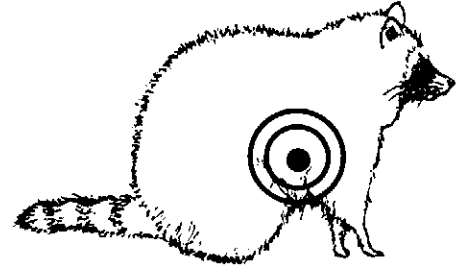


RABIES INFORMATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

- Rabies is spread by contact with an infected animal's saliva, usually through a bite or scratch. It is not spread by blood, urine, feces or skunk spray.
- Animals that are most likely to carry rabies in Massachusetts are: raccoons, skunks, woodchucks, foxes, coyotes, bats and stray dogs and cats.
- The animal's brain is used for rabies testing. **Do not destroy the head** by gunshot or bludgeoning. If a firearm must be used, the animal should be shot through the heart (low in the chest just behind the front leg), using the smallest caliber weapon possible.



- If a bat is found in a home, **do not release the bat outdoors unless you can be certain no human or pet exposure occurred.**
- Bites or scratches from bats may not be visible. A bat should be submitted for testing if a person has had direct contact with it OR if it is found in the room of an unattended child, or a sleeping, intoxicated or mentally disabled person.
- Bats can be safely captured while wearing gloves. Wait until the bat lands, cover it with a coffee can (or similar container), and slide a piece of cardboard underneath to trap it in the container.

- If an exposure has occurred and the animal cannot be captured, the resident should contact either their local board of health or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at the number below.

ALL questions about human exposure should be addressed to the local board of health or the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization at **(617) 983-6800 – available 24 hours**

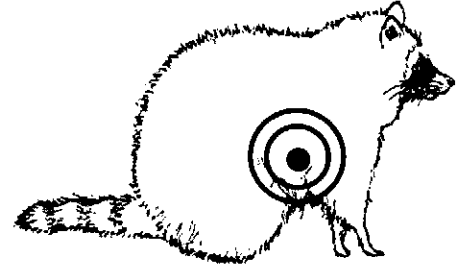
May 2007

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and Immunization
For more information, please call 617-983-6800 or 888-658-2850 (toll free),
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