

5/ What are the signs of a rabid dog?

Dogs bite and show abnormal behaviors such as not coming when called, not wanting to eat or play, look tired. There are two different ways that dogs show signs of rabies:

- **Dogs with furious rabies** can demonstrate extreme behavioral changes including attack behavior, overt aggression, growling, barking, seizures, hydrophobia (they are scared of water), or excessive salivation. They die afterward.



- **Dogs with paralytic rabies (referred to as dumb rabies)** can demonstrate muscular weakness, lack of coordination, and may not be able to swallow. At a later stage, this is followed by paralysis, dropping of the lower jaw and excessive salivation. They die afterward.



6/ What a person should do if they are bitten by a dog ?

Do not panic! Follow ALL three steps below to avoid a possible rabies infection:

- **Wash and flush the wound immediately for at least 15 minutes continuously with running water and soap.** If soap is not available, flush with running water alone. **This is the most effective first-aid treatment against rabies.**
- Secondly, if available, **clean the wounds** thoroughly with alcohol or a disinfectant like povidone-iodine.



- Thirdly, as soon as possible, **go to the nearest health station** to report the dog bite to receive the first post-bite vaccination from a health professional.
- Do NOT cover the wound with a dressing or bandages; this may make it worse.
- Do NOT rely on self- treatment and do not seek treatment from traditional healers.



7/ What to do with the dog that has bitten a person?

- Call the local veterinarian, para-veterinarian, or local authorities to report the dog bite and to request that they come to capture the dog.
- Report the bite to the local health station and local veterinarian or para-veterinarian.

8/ What should a dog owner do if their dog bites people?

- Capture your dog if this can be done safely and restrain your dog by tying it to a fence, locking it in a room or placing it in a large solid box or container.
- Contact the veterinarian, para-veterinarian, or local authorities.
- Help the bite victim to go the local health station



Timely and appropriate vaccination against rabies will protect you, your family and your dogs



**Rabies can be fatal
BUT it is preventable!**



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1/ What is rabies?

- A contagious disease which is predominantly spread by biting dogs to humans and other animals.
- The deadly disease is caused by the rabies virus invading the victim's nervous system, through a bite wound.



2/ Why is rabies dangerous to human?

- **No cure is possible once a person developing rabies symptoms.**
- **People who get bitten by rapid dogs and do not receive timely and sufficient series of post-bite vaccinations and/ serum needed can die because of rabies.**

3/ How is rabies transmitted to human?

- Rabies is transmitted when a dog's saliva enters under a person's skin. This most often happens when a rabid dog bites a person and the rabies virus in the dogs' saliva enters through the bite wound.
- Dog slaughterers are also at risk as dog saliva may enter an open wound or they may be exposed to the brain and nerve tissue.



4/ How to prevent rabies in dogs and its transmission to humans?



- Register your dogs with village leaders or paravets and have your dogs vaccinated against rabies.



- **Annual dog vaccination for rabies** is the best way to prevent the spread of rabies in dogs and people.



- Do not let your dog roam around. Always keep your dogs chained, fenced in or locked up.



- If dogs are not allowed to roam free, this greatly reduces their chances of being exposed to rabies. Keeping a muzzle on your dog when they are in public areas prevents them from biting people and other dogs reducing the risk of rabies exposure to family, friends and neighbors