

M&R FEEDS AND FARM SUPPLY

A Division of Brent Clifford Feeds Limited.

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Rabies and Livestock

Protect your family and pets. Stay away from raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats. Rabies is a virus that can be transmitted, through saliva, from an infected mammal to any other mammal including livestock, pets, wildlife and humans.

How do livestock get infected with rabies?

- Bite from a rabid animal
- Contact with saliva from an infected animal, in an open cut, sore or wound
- Contact with saliva from an infected animal, in its eyes, mouth or nose

Signs of Rabies in Livestock can include:

- Behaviour change, either aggressive or dull and depressed
- Making strange noises, abnormal bellowing
- Weakness in hindquarters
- Other symptoms can include: paralysis of the throat, drooling, head extension and bloat

Reducing Risk of Rabies

- Limiting contact between your livestock and wildlife
- Avoid pasturing livestock in remote areas of your property where contact with wildlife is more likely
- Cleaning up scrap material or equipment that wildlife might use for shelter or nesting
- Not leaving out food (including pet food), scraps or garbage that could attract wildlife
- Talk to your veterinarian about vaccinating livestock, including sheep, cattle, goats and horses – In Canada, all rabies vaccines licensed for livestock protect an animal for one year

Human Exposure

If you or another person has been bitten, scratched or in contact with the saliva of a suspect rabid animal, wash the wound well with soap and water, seek medical attention.

For Veterinarians

If you need help assessing, managing or testing a potentially rabid or exposed pet or livestock, contact Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs 1-877-421-1300.

For Livestock/Pet Owners

If any of your animals has come into direct contact with suspicious wildlife, or if you suspect one of your animals may be showing signs of rabies, contact your local veterinarian as soon as possible. In most jurisdictions in Ontario, dogs and cats over three months of age must be currently vaccinated for rabies.

Source: City of Hamilton