

If you have been bitten or come into contact with the saliva of an animal, clean the wound immediately with soap water for 10 to 15 minutes and **contact Info-Santé 811 without delay**. A vaccination that is given quickly following exposure can prevent the disease.

If your pet has been bitten or comes into contact with the saliva of a wild animal, **consult a veterinarian quickly**.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO REPORT A
SUSPICIOUS ANIMAL:**

Go online to:
Quebec.ca/raccoonrabies

Phone us at:
1-877-346-6763

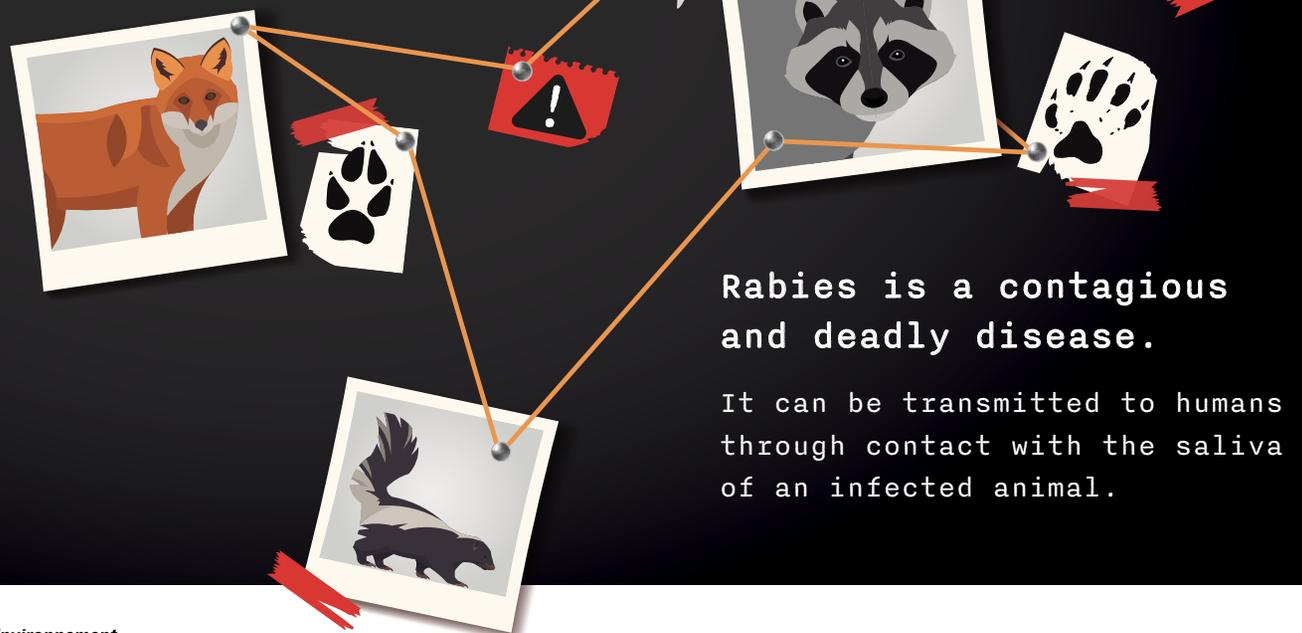
Business hours

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday and Friday:
From 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday:
From 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



RABIES
IS **DEADLY.**



Rabies is a contagious and deadly disease.

It can be transmitted to humans through contact with the saliva of an infected animal.



Environnement,
Lutte contre
les changements
climatiques,
Faune et Parcs



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The Gouvernement du Québec is currently implementing a plan to fight against raccoon rabies in order to control and eliminate this disease, which reappeared in Québec in 2024. This plan aims to protect human health, as wild animals (raccoons, skunks, foxes) that can carry rabies live near humans and their domestic animals. Teams from the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs are carrying out surveillance and control operations in the field in Estrie and Montérégie.

HOW CAN RABIES BE CONTROLLED?

Control operations involve vaccinating raccoons, skunks and foxes to prevent them from becoming infected and spreading the disease. To do this, oral vaccines, known as "vaccine baits," are distributed by airplane or by hand into forests, along the edges of agricultural fields and waterways, near abandoned farm buildings and sometimes near residential areas. By eating the vaccine bait, the animal is protected from rabies. Immunized animals form a "barrier" against the spread of the disease across the territory.

What do the vaccine baits look like?

Vaccine baits look like a large greenish ravioli. Once it is spread, it becomes very difficult for humans to see because of its "camouflage" colouring. The sweet smell of the vaccine bait attracts raccoons.



Photo: Marianne Gagnier

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT VACCINE BAITS

Can a perforated vaccine bait be dangerous to humans?

The bait is considered to be safe for humans.

If you come into contact with an open or perforated vaccine bait, wash your hands and, as a precaution, contact Info-Santé 811 or call the number appearing on the baits.

Avoid handling vaccine baits

You have found a vaccine in a place that is accessible to wild animals but out of the way of human activity?

Leave it where it is without touching it.



Photo: Audrey Gauthier

Photo: Marianne Gagnier

HOW CAN I TELL IF THE OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE?

Control operations have already proved effective. Raccoon rabies was eliminated from Québec's territory after its emergence in 2006. Similar operations have also succeeded in controlling raccoon rabies in Ontario since 2015. Between 2007 and 2017, studies conducted in Québec confirmed that vaccinating wild animals works well.

To control and eliminate the new raccoon rabies outbreak in Québec, vaccination operations will be necessary for a few years and will be adapted to the situation. Indeed, vaccination operations do not make it possible to vaccinate all raccoons in a given area. In this context, cases of raccoon rabies may be discovered in an area covered by vaccination. With the implementation of multiple control operations, rabies can eventually be eliminated.

My pet has eaten a vaccine bait. Is it dangerous?

The bait is safe for domestic animals and it cannot transmit rabies. Furthermore, it is very important to note that your pet cannot be considered vaccinated against rabies if it has consumed a vaccine bait. If you have any questions or wish to ensure that your pet is properly protected against rabies, consult your veterinarian.

What should I do if I've found a vaccine bait in harvested crops or in the environment of farm animals?

Whether the vaccine is intact or perforated, we suggest that you visit the section "Vaccine bait" online at [Québec.ca/raccoonrabies](https://quebec.ca/raccoonrabies) or contact us at **1-877-346-6763**.

HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONTROL OPERATIONS?

To help limit the spread of raccoon rabies in Estrie and Montérégie, it is important not to relocate live raccoons, skunks or foxes, even if they are a nuisance or appear to be orphaned. An animal that appears healthy can carry rabies and develop the disease a few weeks or even months later.

WHAT DOES SURVEILLANCE INVOLVE?

The purpose of surveillance operations is to quickly detect cases of raccoon rabies in Québec. Surveillance involves collecting dead animals or animals showing rabies signs and having the animals tested.

You can contribute to the success of raccoon rabies surveillance by reporting suspicious or dead animals.

We invite you to report any dead or suspicious raccoon, skunk or fox that you see in the Montérégie or Estrie regions. A suspicious animal might show one or more of the following signs:

- It seems very sick;
- It seems disoriented;
- It is unusually aggressive;
- It is paralyzed.
- It is dying;

If it meets the collection criteria, the animal will be retrieved to determine whether or not it has the disease.