

Clark County Health District
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clark County Health District Issues Rabies Alert

(Las Vegas, Nev. – September 7, 2000) – Three people, two cats and a dog have been exposed to rabies through contact with infected bats in Southern Nevada. Two of the human exposures took place in Clark County and one in Nye County.

Healthy bats will not usually come into contact with people. The Clark County Health District issues the following guidelines to avoid exposure to rabid bats:

- Never approach a bat. Bats seen during the day, on the ground, flying erratically, or inside of a home are probably sick. Animal Control should be notified immediately.
- Do not attempt to capture, handle or kill a bat.
- Immunize pets against rabies. By law, all pet dogs, cats and ferrets must be immunized against rabies every two or three years depending upon vaccine type.

Rabies is transmitted when the saliva of an infected animal enters the body of another animal or human through a bite or scratch. While there is no treatment for rabies after symptoms of the disease appear, scientists have developed an extremely effective vaccine regimen that provides immunity to rabies when administered after an exposure or for protection before an exposure occurs.

Anyone bitten or scratched by a bat should immediately contact an animal control agency and their physician. Bats leave very small bite marks, therefore, if a bat brushes against a person it should be treated as a possible exposure. Healthy bats benefit the community by reducing the population of unwanted insects and do not usually come into contact with people.

For animal control in your area contact:

Clark County:	477-7710
City of Las Vegas:	229-6348
City of North Las Vegas:	633-1390
City of Henderson:	565-2033
Boulder City:	293-9283

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