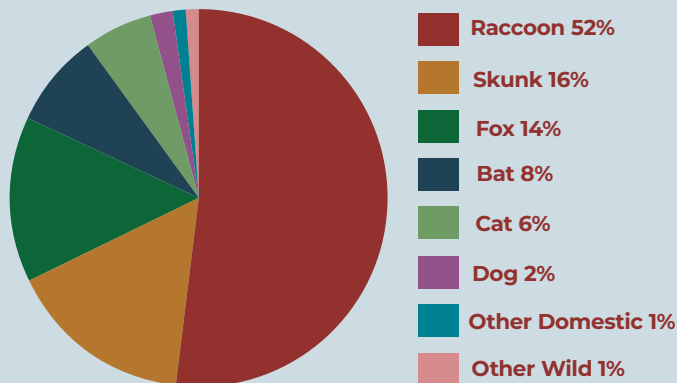


# Rabies in South Carolina

## Rabid Animals

Percentages of Rabid Animals, 2002 – 2023



Every year, about **148 animals** test positive for rabies in South Carolina.

Approximately 30% of these cases involve human exposure!

## Rabies Prevention



Any mammal can get rabies! Rabies is usually transmitted through a bite from an infected animal.



Don't keep wild animals as pets. If you see an animal in need, contact a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in your area. Do not approach the animal.



Never touch wild or stray animals with your bare hands. Educate children on why they should not handle wild or unknown animals.



Vaccinate pets against rabies. By law, all dogs, cats and ferrets should be vaccinated. Keep shots up to date, whether annually or as directed by a veterinarian.



Watch for abnormal behavior. Avoid wild animals acting tame and tame animals acting wild.

## Dealing with Exposure

### If Exposure Occurs:

1. Immediately wash bite/wound with soap and water.
2. Contact a health care provider, even for minor incidents.
3. Notify your local Public Health (PH) office. Visit [Rabies Contacts and Reporting | SCDHEC](#) to find your local office.



### Did you know?

Per the SC Rabies Control Act, it is the law to report all wild and domestic animal bites to your local PH office by the end of the next working day.

### Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP):

Hundreds of South Carolinians must undergo preventive treatment for rabies every year, due to exposure to a rabid or suspected rabid animal.