

Rabies:

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is altered. Cats that suffer from dumb rabies usually die in a day or two showing only progressive paralysis accompanied by periods of

excessive affection and purring. Unlike dogs, cats rarely recognize or respond to their owners.
Controlling Rabies
A continent the size of North America with

numerous ports of entry and huge areas densely populated by wildlife is unlikely to be able to eliminate rabies. In various parts of Europe where rabies is prevalent a control programme involving injection of chicken heads with the live virus and depositing them in areas highly populated with carriers has met with some success. The idea is that wildlife carriers will eat the bait and vaccinate themselves.

Many pet owners neglect to vaccinate their pets and it is highly unusual for any wild animal to seek human companionship. It may mean that you have come face to face with a rabid attacker. A vaccination programme for your pet should begin when the cat or dog is three months old. Your veterinarian will provide you with a booster vaccination schedule.

As stated by Dr. J. Cummins at the Univer-

sity of Western Ontario the effective immunization period may be reduced in areas where certain air pollutants, notably Dioxin, Furan and P.C.B. are found at high levels. He maintains that even a vaccinated pet's resistance to rabies may be lowered in areas of environmental stress such as dump sites or waste disposal units suggesting that if you live in such areas you should consider vaccinating your pet more often.

Simple Steps to Follow
Vaccinate all animals. Repeat vaccinations yearly or as advised by your veterinarian. Keep pets on a leash, especially areas where other animals are likely to be met. Keep pets, especially cats, indoors at night. Many night roaming animals, notably skunks, carry and transmit the disease. Stay away from wild animals. Especially discourage children from

approaching stray animals, wild or domestic, who may seem to be friendly. Do not touch any dead animal. If this is unavoidable wear leather mitts or gloves.
Rabies is a reportable disease. If you sight or come in contact with a suspected rabid animal, an officer of health must be contacted. Do not kill a suspected rabid animal unless it is wild or attacks you. Instead isolate it if possible and seek help.

If an animal you own shows signs of being sick, do not attempt to diagnose what is wrong or to treat it. Call a veterinarian.

If you come in contact with the saliva of an animal who may be rabid, wash the affected area well with soap and water. Wounds should be thoroughly flushed for several minutes. Shield the eyes, nose and mouth from reflected spray. Once cleaned, apply antiseptic

and contact a doctor immediately.

If you have never seen an animal with rabies consider yourself very fortunate because reading about it and seeing the real thing is very different, especially when it is a pet. And to see a human being with it or in all actuality the after effects of a human being that had been bitten by a rabid dog is horrendous to say the very least.
J. Smith

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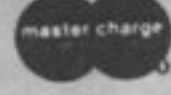
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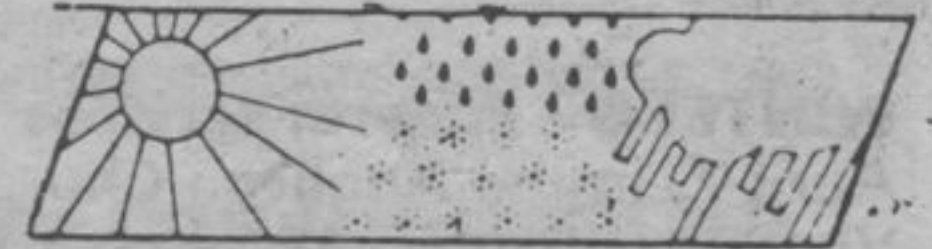
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