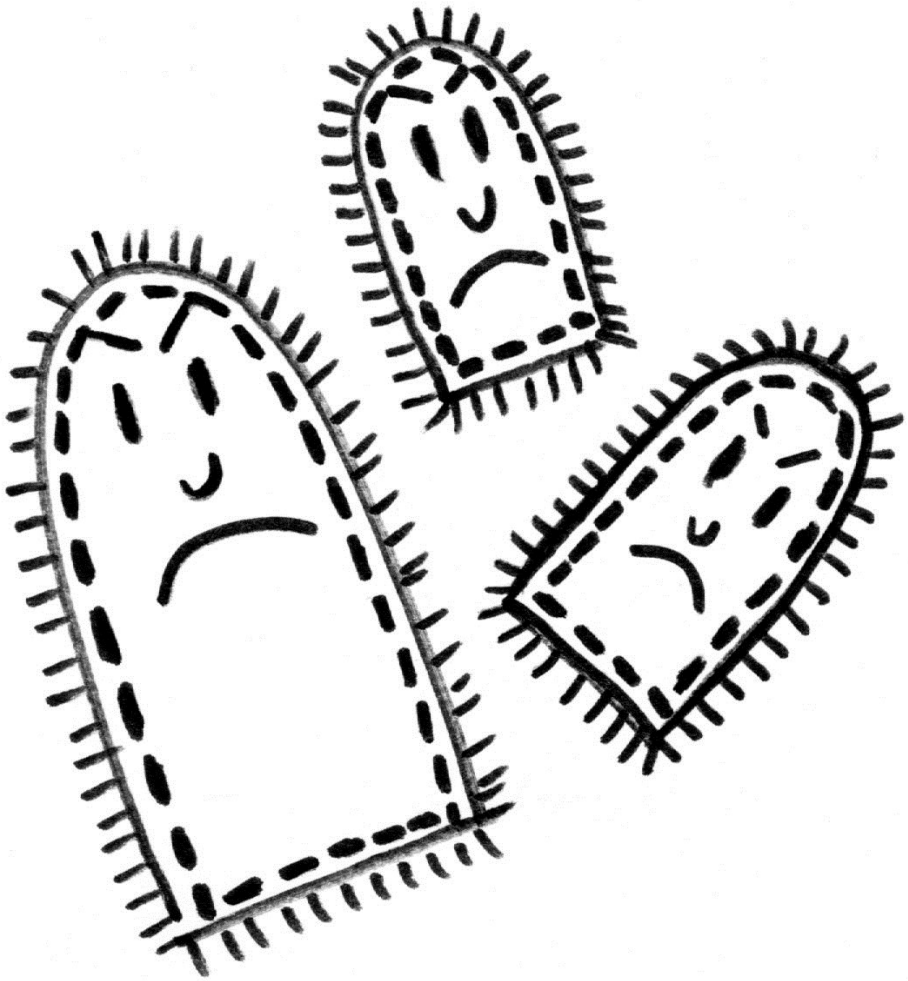
Protect Yourself and Your Pets from Rabies

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE & CONSUMER PROTECTION
FORWARD
WISCONSIN

Rabies is a disease that affects the brain. It´s usually passed from animal to animal, but it can be passed from animals to people. It´s caused by a virus. A virus is a very tiny germ, and you can only see that germ if you have a special microscope.



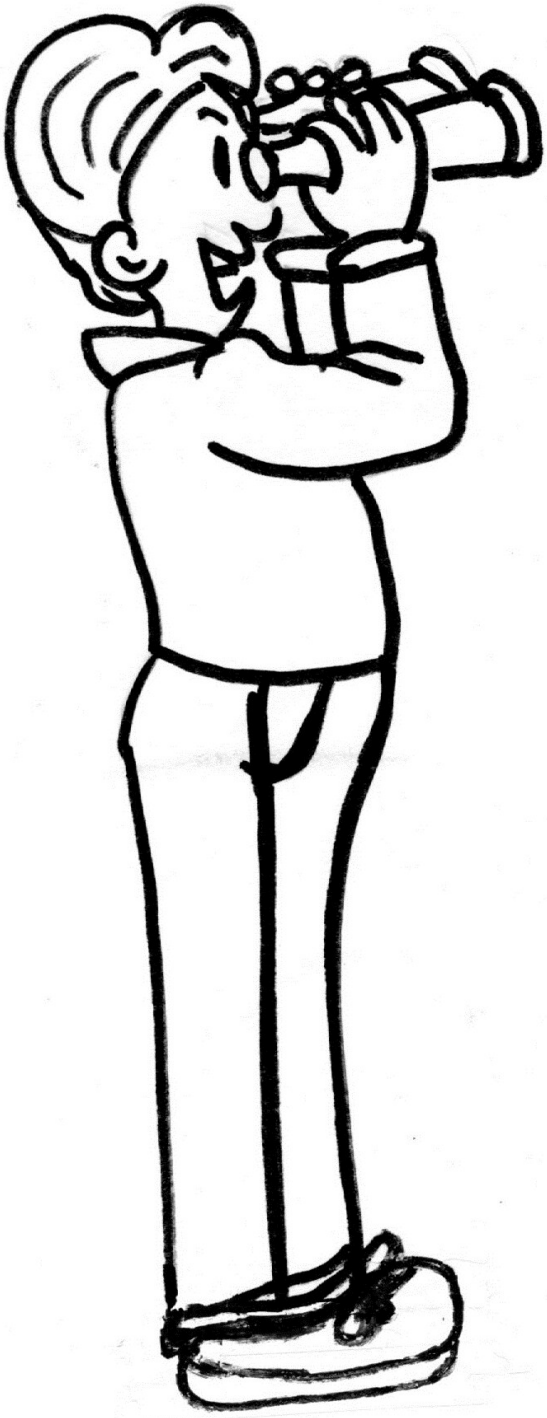
In the United States, raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats are the main animals that get rabies.

The best way to keep your pet from getting rabies is to make sure your pet gets the rabies shot. Then be sure they wear their rabies tags and an identification tag with your name and telephone number on their collar.

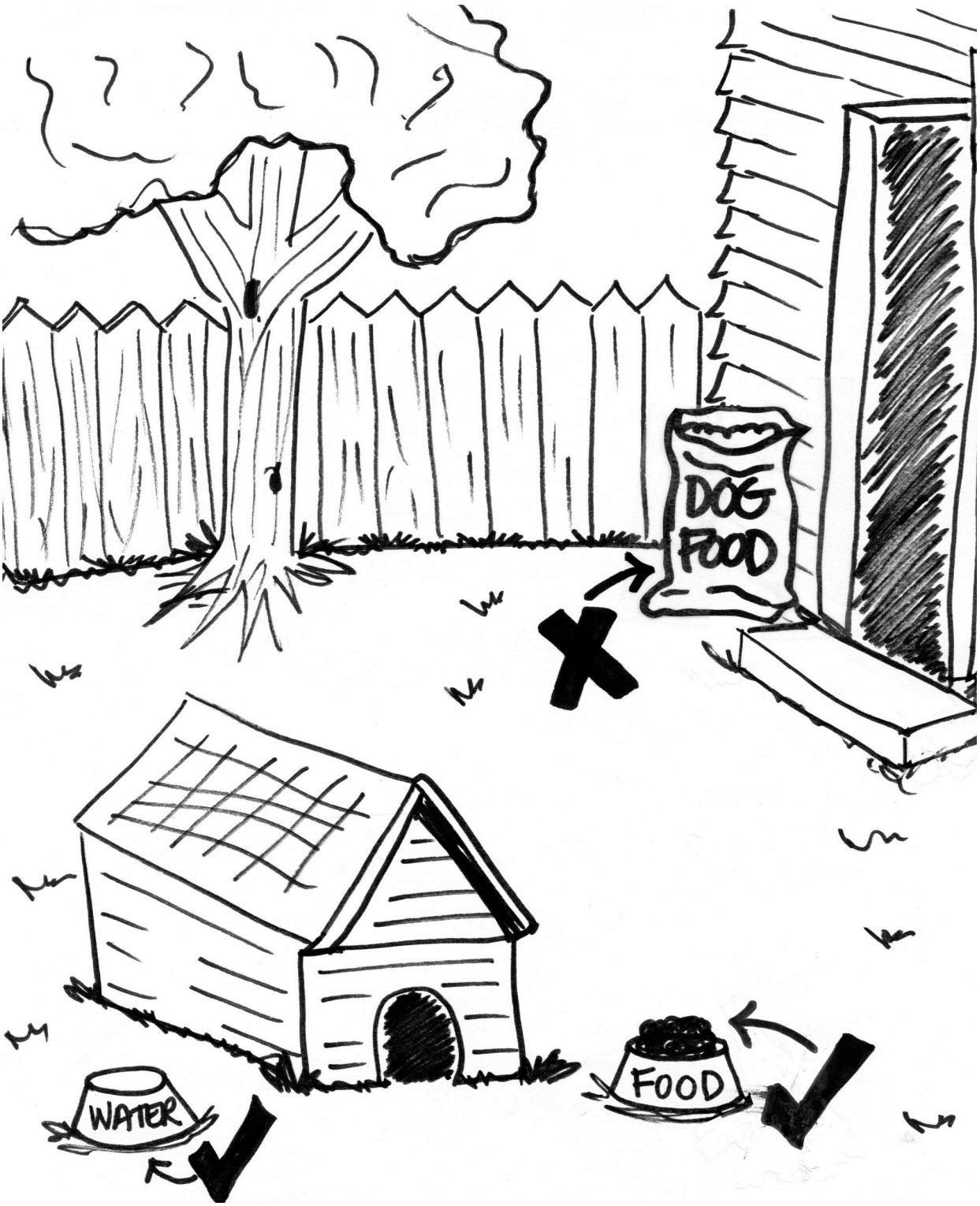
If an animal bites your pet, handle your pet carefully so you don´t get bitten. Take them to your veterinarian so they can get a rabies booster vaccination. That will help them fight off the disease.

You want to keep your dog away from wildlife so he won´t be bitten by an animal with rabies. Always walk your dog on a leash so he or she can´t run loose. Keep dogs in a fenced yard if they´re not on a leash.

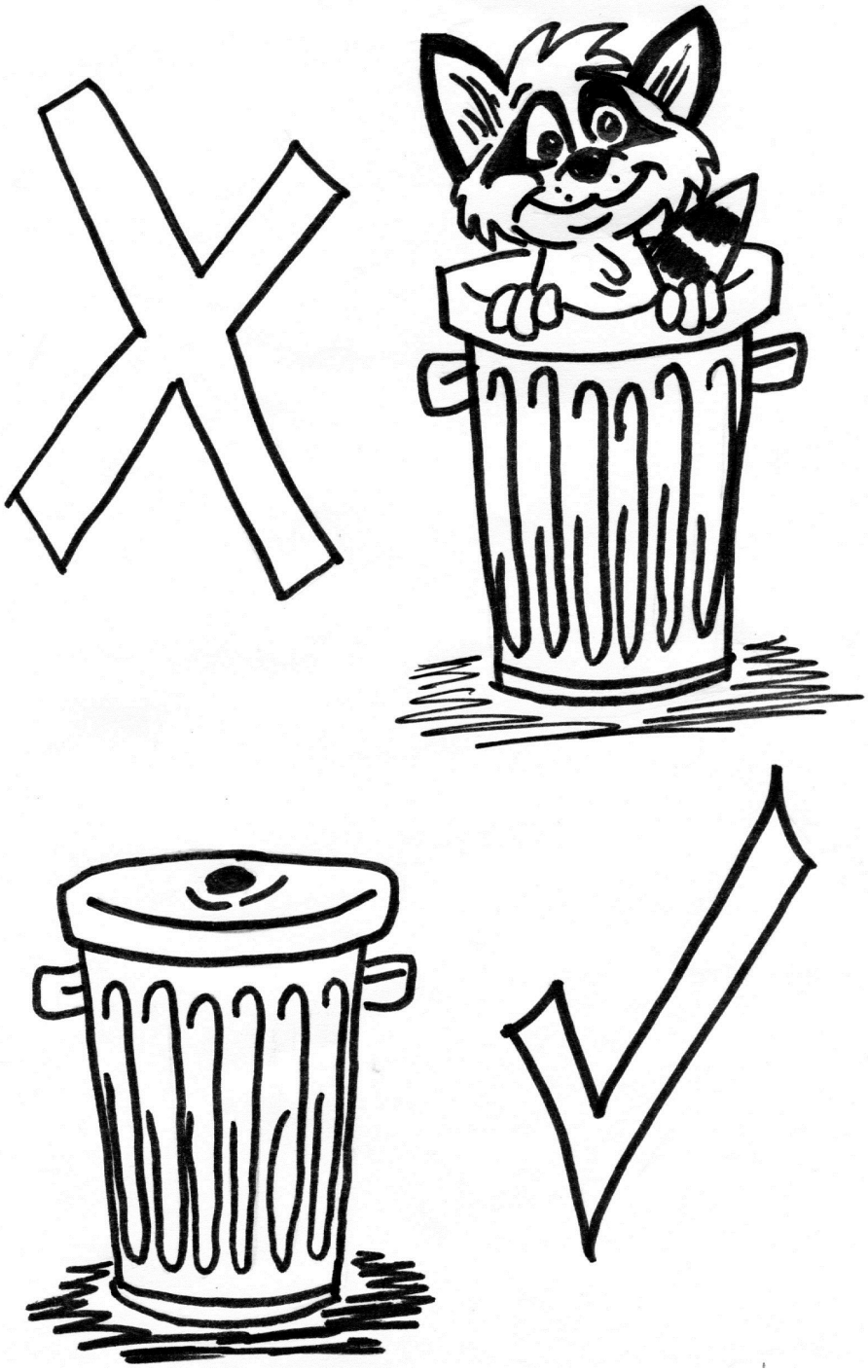
To make sure you don’t get bitten by an animal with rabies, enjoy wildlife from a distance. Don’t try to pet or catch a wild animal!

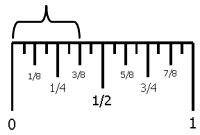


You don´t want to attract wild animals to your home, so make sure that you don´t store large quantities of pet food outside. Make sure to keep it inside or in a container with a tight lid.



And make sure your trash cans are closed up tight to keep animals out.



Prevent bats from entering your home. Some of the common entry points are shown here. Try providing them with an alternative by building a bat house and mounting it on a tree away from your house.

Bats can enter your home through an opening of only 3/8 of an inch.