

Problem: transmission of the rabies virus

Summary: Rabies has different hosts

The most common way of transmission of the rabies virus, is through the bite of an infected animal.

After transmission, the virus travels to the central nervous system of the new host. The virus then undergoes a period of incubation, lasting days to years (on average, one to three months). During the viral incubation period, the infected animal:

- Displays no symptoms
- Cannot transmit the virus through saliva

At the end of the incubation period, the virus begins to replicate and spread. In addition to spreading throughout the central nervous system, rabies virus also can spread to certain highly-nerve-tissue tissues of the body (tissues with a lot of nerve cell connections to and from the brain), including the salivary glands. During this active period of viral replication and spread, the infected animal:

- Begins to display symptoms like fever, change of behavior (anxiety, aggressive), muscle contractions, death.
- Can transmit the virus through infected saliva

Although transmission of saliva most often occurs through a bite, infected saliva also can transmit rabies virus by coming in contact with:

- Mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth)
- Broken skin (scratch, cut, wound)

From the text above, it is clear YOU MAY NOT EAT MEAT FROM, WITH RABIES INFECTED ANIMALS. Do not feed meat from an animal with rabies, or suspected to have rabies, to your dogs. Also be, as much as you can, careful with (stray) dogs, they still the most important transmitter of the rabies virus!

Trefwoorden: rabies, transmission, eat