

# Love Animals AND Stay Safe

*[Announcer] This podcast is brought to you by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. CDC - safer, healthier people.*

[Kaya] Hi kids! Welcome to CDC Kidtastics Radio! I'm Kaya Kidtastic. Today, we're talking about rabies. Rabies is usually passed from animal to animal, but it can be passed from animals to people. If rabies isn't prevented, it will cause death.

[Chris] Only mammals can get rabies. People are mammals, and so are most of our pets, like dogs and cats. In the U.S., the mammals that get rabies most often are raccoons, skunks, foxes, and bats.

[Kaya] You can't tell if an animal has rabies by just looking at it, but if it's acting strangely, that might be a clue. Some animals with rabies might act mad and try to bite you. Other animals may act timid, move slowly, or act tame. You might be able to easily get close to it. Since that's not the way wild animals usually act, something could be wrong.

[Chris] If you have a pet, make sure it gets a rabies shot *every* year. Keep your pets away from wildlife so they won't be bitten by an animal with rabies. If an animal bites your pet, have a grownup take your pet to the vet immediately to get a rabies shot. That will help make sure they don't get rabies.

[Kaya] Make sure *you* stay away from wild animals, and dogs and cats you don't know. Remember – if any animal is acting strangely, tell a grown up. They need to call the local animal control office. If you get bitten by an animal, tell an adult right away! Have them wash the wound with soap and water for at least five minutes. Then, it's *very* important to go to the doctor as soon as possible.

Thanks for listening to CDC Kidtastics Radio. We'll talk to you again soon. Until then... be a safer, healthier kid!!

*[Announcer] For more health information, go to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO, 24/7.*