Rabies Precautions

The first sign of rabies is usually a change in the animal's behavior. Animals may act more aggressively or be more tamed than usual.

Rabid animals may appear agitated and excited or paralyzed and frightened. Sometimes, rabid animals do not show any signs of illness before death from rabies, so this is why contact with wild animals should always be avoided.

Pinal County Officials recommend the following precautions:

- **Keep people and pets away from wild animals. Do not pick up, touch, or feed wild or unfamiliar animals, especially sick or wounded ones**
- **If you have been bitten or scratched, wash the area with soap and water and go to the nearest emergency room for medical care**
- **Do not "rescue" seemingly abandoned young wild animals. Usually, the mother will return. If the mother is dead or has not returned in many hours, call the Arizona Game and Fish Department at (800) 352-0700**
- **Vaccinate all dogs and cats against rabies. Pets should be kept in a fenced yard**
- **Take precautions when camping, hunting, or fishing. Avoid sleeping on the open ground without the protection of a closed tent or camper. Keep pets on a leash, and do not allow them to wander**
- **Do not disturb roosting bats. If you find a bat on the ground, do not touch it. Report the bat and its location to your local animal control officer or health department. Place a box over the bat to contain it. Be careful not to damage the bat in any way since it must be intact for rabies testing**

PINAL COUNTY