• Rabies is caused by a **virus**.

• You can get rabies virus if an animal bites you, usually a dog.

• Rabies can also be passed from animal to animal.

• The rabies virus makes your body stop working.

**YOU can Stop Rabies!**
These animals can get rabies:

- Cattle
- Horses
- Dogs
- Cats
- Mongoose

They are all mammals.
Only mammals can get rabies. Mammals are warm blooded animals, with fur or hair and produce live young.
These animals can get rabies:

- Black-backed jackal
- African wild dog
- Hyena
- Ethiopian wolf
- Bat
- Bat-eared fox
These animals cannot get rabies:

- Birds
- Fish
- Snake
- Crocodile

They are not mammals.

They cannot give you rabies.
How do animals and people get rabies?

- **Saliva**
  - through bites, licking, scratching

- **Blood**
- **Faeces**
- **Urine**

You cannot get rabies just by touching an animal with rabies.
If an animal with rabies bites you, the rabies virus can get into your body. The virus attacks the central nervous system. It makes your body stop working.
Some viruses are harmless, while others can make you ill. For example, measles, HIV/AIDS, chickenpox and flu are caused by viruses.

Viruses attack host cells in the body and multiply. Then they move onto other hosts cells and do the same thing again.

This is how rabies virus moves through your body and makes you ill.
The rabies virus gets into nerve cells - the smallest parts of our central nervous system. The virus multiplies and moves on to other nerve cells, until it eventually gets to the brain.

When the virus gets to the brain, it causes the brain to swell. A person with rabies may go into a coma and die.

It can take months before you realise something is wrong.
If you think an animal has rabies, do not touch it or try to feed it.

Tell an adult who can call an animal control officer to take care of the animal safely.
Never disturb a dog that is:

- Caring for puppies
- Sleeping
- Eating
Keep away from wildlife. Don’t encourage a wild animal to come up to you by feeding it. It might seem tame and allow you to get close, but remember that this is not the way wild animals usually act. Something could be wrong.

If you see a wild animal acting strangely, report it to an animal control officer.
Stay away from animals that you do not know.

Remember... Stray animals may not be vaccinated against rabies.
If a dog comes close to you:

Stand still

Keep quiet

Keep your arms down and your hands folded

Imagine you are a tree

Look at your feet

Count in your head to the highest number you know, over and over again, until the dog goes away.

— World Rabies Day

September 28

Global Alliance for Rabies Control
If a dog attacks you:

- Curl up into a ball, with your head tucked in
- Keep still and quiet
- Put your hands over the back of your neck
- Imagine you are a rock
If you get bitten:

- Immediately wash the wound really well with soap and lots of water
- Tell an adult
- See a doctor

You will be given medicine to make sure that you don’t get rabies
The doctor will:

- Clean the wound properly
- Give you anti-rabies vaccinations

The vaccinations will help to stop the virus from attacking your body.

It is important that you do everything the doctor says.
If your pet is bitten:

Take your pet to a vet who will decide what is best for the animal.
How to prevent Rabies?

1. Get your pet vaccinated regularly to make sure it does not infect other animals or people with rabies
How to prevent Rabies?

2. Sterilise your pet to help reduce the number of unwanted animals that may not be properly cared for or vaccinated.
How to prevent Rabies?

3. Do not let your pet go wherever it likes. This will help to prevent it from being bitten by another animal that has rabies.
How to prevent Rabies?

4. Keep a lid on rubbish. Rubbish can attract stray and wild animals that have rabies to your home.
How to prevent Rabies?

5. Get help to remove stray animals that may spread rabies to other animals and people. An animal control officer will take care of stray animals safely.
Did you know?

- Every year, more than 55 000 people die from rabies.
- Most of the people who die from rabies were bitten by infected dogs.
- Most dog-bite victims are children under the age of 15.
- There is no cure for rabies.
- Rabies can be prevented in animals and people.
Prevention of Rabies!

1. Get your pet vaccinated
2. Sterilise your pet
3. Do not let your pet go wherever it likes
4. Keep a lid on rubbish
5. Get help to remove stray animals
You can Stop Rabies!

rabiesalliance.org/world-rabies-day

Let’s make rabies history!