

**Pueblo City-County Health Department Health Alert • Summertime Diseases Carried by Wildlife
June, 2016**

	Plague	Rabies	Tularemia	West Nile Virus
Confirmed in Pueblo County?	Yes, plague is in Pueblo County each year. Plague is usually found around prairie dog towns.	Yes, mostly bats in Pueblo County have rabies. People should avoid contact with skunks and other wild animals such as foxes, coyotes or raccoons that may have rabies.	Yes, tularemia is in Pueblo County each year, often in Pueblo West.	Yes, each year West Nile virus is confirmed in mosquitoes in Pueblo County.
How can a human become infected?	Rarely, plague can be transmitted person-to-person through respiratory droplets. Through the bite of an infected flea or by handling infected, sick or dead animals.	Through the bite or bodily fluids of an infected animal. When a bat is found in a room with a sleeping person, infant or toddler, or a person believes they have been bitten by a bat, contact animal control or the health department immediately. Do not throw away any bat that has been in contact with people or pets.	Through the bite of an infected insect, most commonly ticks and deer flies, or by handling infected, sick or dead animals (often rabbits).	Through the bite of mosquitoes carrying the virus.
What protection should be done for pets?	Keep pets indoors, especially cats. If outdoors, restrain your pets from roaming, by keeping them leashed. Use flea/tick control products (powders, drops, etc.) on your pets. The effectiveness of flea/tick repellent collars has not been proven.	Protect your pets by ensuring vaccinations are up-to-date. Puppies and kittens can be vaccinated for rabies as early as four months old. Contact your veterinarian if your dog or cat is bitten or scratched by wild animals, such as skunks, bats, foxes or raccoons.	Keep pets indoors, especially cats. If outdoors, restrain your pets from roaming, by keeping them leashed. Use flea/tick control products (powders, drops, etc.) on your pets. The effectiveness of flea/tick repellent collars has not been proven. Avoid allowing your pets to drink from streams or lakes.	No special precautions needed for domesticated animals (dogs and cats).

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	Plague	Rabies	Tularemia	West Nile Virus
Best prevention method?	<p>Avoid all contact with wild rodents, prairie dogs, squirrels and rabbits; do not feed or handle them.</p> <p>Never touch sick or dead animals with your bare hands. If an animal must be moved, use a long-handled shovel to place it in a garbage bag and place the bag in an outdoor garbage can.</p> <p>Eliminate places rodents can hide and live. Keep your home and outbuildings as rodent-proof as possible.</p> <p>Use insect repellent with DEET during hiking, camping, working outdoors, or removing dead animals.</p>	<p>Do not feed wild animals or allow your pets around them. Teach children to stay away from wild mammals and all animals unless you have permission to touch a pet. Do not keep pet food outside as that may attract wild animals.</p>	<p>Avoid all contact with wild rodents, squirrels and rabbits; do not feed or handle them.</p> <p>Never touch sick or dead animals with your bare hands. If an animal must be moved, use a long-handled shovel to place it in a garbage bag and place the bag in an outdoor garbage can.</p> <p>Use insect repellent with DEET during hiking, camping, working outdoors, or removing dead animals.</p> <p>Do not mow over dead animals. Wear a dust mask if activities such as mowing create a lot of dust.</p> <p>Inspect your body for ticks when returning from wooded areas. Remove attached ticks with fine-tipped tweezers.</p>	<p>Follow the Five D's:</p> <p>DRAIN: eliminate standing water</p> <p>DUSK and DAWN: avoid outdoor activities at dusk and dawn when mosquitoes are most active</p> <p>DEET: is an effective ingredient to look for in insect repellent</p> <p>DRESS: in long-sleeved shirts, pants, shoes and socks</p>
Symptoms	<p>Fever, chills, headache, weakness and swollen and painful lymph nodes. Plague can be treated with antibiotics if caught in time.</p>	<p>Rabies symptoms do not develop until onset of disease, and then it is nearly 100% fatal. It is key to avoid exposure to wild animals. Report any contact with a wild animal to your medical provider.</p>	<p>Fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, skin ulcers, chest pain and coughing. Tularemia can be effectively treated with antibiotics if caught in time.</p>	<p>Fever, fatigue, body aches, meningitis and encephalitis. There is no specific antiviral treatment for West Nile, treatment of symptoms only.</p>
More Information	<p>www.cdc.gov/plague</p>	<p>www.cdc.gov/rabies Bat removal: Pueblo Animal Control, 544-3500, extension 4 or Pueblo City-County Health Department, 583-4307.</p>	<p>www.cdc.gov/Tularemia</p>	<p>www.FightTheBiteColorado.com</p>

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