

**BASED ON ACTUAL EVENTS!**

**RABIES TALES**

from Los Angeles County

ONE MORNING IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY.

THANKS FOR HELPING ME WITH THE GARDENING, ANNIE!

SURE, MOM.

HMMM... SOMETHING'S MOVING IN HERE.

Dr. Emily Becker, DVM

WHAT IS THIS?

AAAAGHH!!!  
IT'S A BAT!!!

IT'S NOT MOVING. IT MUST BE SICK. DID YOU TOUCH IT?

YES, I DID! IT'S KINDA CUTE! MAYBE I SHOULD TRY TO FEED IT.

NO, ANNIE. WE CAN'T KEEP IT. BATS CAN CARRY RABIES. RABIES CAN KILL YOU! YOU GET IT WHEN A RABID ANIMAL BITES YOU.

RABIES?! I DIDN'T KNOW BATS COULD HAVE RABIES! I DID GET A LITTLE CUT ON MY FINGER. MAYBE IT BIT ME.

WE DON'T WANT ANY PEOPLE OR ANIMALS TO TOUCH IT! LET'S COVER IT WITH A BUCKET AND CALL ANIMAL CONTROL.

GENTLY! DON'T HURT IT!

WE'LL HAVE THEM COME AND TAKE THE BAT AND CHECK IT FOR RABIES.

THE NEXT DAY ANNIE'S MOM GETS A CALL FROM PUBLIC HEALTH:

THE BAT TESTED POSITIVE FOR RABIES. THE CUT ON YOUR DAUGHTER'S FINGER MIGHT HAVE BEEN MADE BY THE BAT'S TEETH...

SHE MAY HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO RABIES. SHE'LL NEED TO GET SHOTS RIGHT AWAY TO PREVENT HER FROM GETTING SICK.

CAN'T YOU JUST DO A TEST TO SEE IF SHE CAUGHT RABIES? SHE HATES SHOTS.

UNFORTUNATELY NO. TESTS FOR RABIES ONLY WORK AFTER THE SYMPTOMS BEGIN... AND THEN IT IS TOO LATE!

AND SO ANNIE'S MOM TAKES HER TO THE DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY...

I HATE SHOTS! I HEARD THAT YOU GET RABIES SHOTS IN THE BELLY!!! AND THEY HURT A LOT!

NO, ANNIE. THE SHOTS DO NOT GO IN THE BELLY. YOU'LL GET ONE SHOT TODAY IN THE UPPER ARM.

YOU GET ANOTHER SHOT IN YOUR HAND WHERE THE BAT MIGHT HAVE BITTEN YOU.

AFTER THIS YOU'LL COME BACK FOR THREE MORE SHOTS IN YOUR ARM OVER THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. YOU DON'T TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH RABIES!

FOUR WEEKS LATER...

WELL, I MADE IT THROUGH, NO RABIES FOR ME! I GOT YOU SOMETHING...

WHAT IS IT, ANNIE?

GARDENING GLOVES! I GOT A PAIR FOR ME, TOO. NO MORE PICKING UP SICK BATS FOR US!

- Never touch a bat!
- Most bats do not have rabies.
- Bats eat insects. They are good for the environment, and bats are protected by state and federal law.
- Bats that are active in daylight or found on the ground are more likely to have rabies.
- If a person touches or handles a bat, call Contra Costa Public Health Communicable Disease at 925-313-6740.

