

WAYS OF KEEPING YOURSELF SAFE FROM RABIES WITHOUT NOISE AND FOAM

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With the beginning of the warm season, the risk of the spread of rabies increases: an increase in the activity of wild animals, as well as an increase in the number of people who go out of town, including with pets, is affected. The disease itself is fatal and incurable, including for humans. Earlier, Rospotrebnadzor warned that in some regions of Russia the situation remains difficult. This spring, rabies was also heard amid a scandal in Yakutsk, where more than a hundred animals were euthanized in a city shelter due to suspicion of the disease. How to identify a sick animal, why foam is an important but optional sign, what to do when meeting with it and how to protect yourself and your pets - in the material of "Izvestia".

Rabies is an acute infectious disease that affects the nervous system and is fatal in both humans and animals. The latter are its carriers, it is from them that a person can become infected, including through pets that have not been vaccinated.

According to the World Health Organization, the disease occurs in more than 150 countries around the world and is present on all continents except Antarctica. Every year it causes the death of tens of thousands of people (according to the latest WHO estimates, published, however, back in 2017, it was about 60 thousand people).

Most of the deaths occur in countries in Africa and Asia, but deaths in humans occur in other countries as well. In Russia, according to Rospotrebnadzor, from 2012 to the end of the summer of 2019, 30 such cases were recorded. At the same time, the department emphasized that the situation with this disease in the country is difficult.

- If a wild animal, especially one that is a frequent carrier, comes out to people or on the track, behaves inappropriately - too affectionate or too aggressive - this is already a serious sign. Such animals can, for example, bite objects indiscriminately, because at this moment they no longer control their behavior, - said the interlocutor of the publication.

The presence of rabies can be indicated by refusal to eat - for example, when people are trying to feed an animal that has come to the site - and, most importantly, water (the disease is also known as hydrophobia or hydrophobia).

One of the most famous signs of the disease is the presence of foam on the animal's face. But in reality, it will not necessarily be present.

- Foam appears already in the final stages, when the animal dies. You need to pay attention, including to faded coat or a stopped gaze, - explains Veronika Matyushina.

Some animals, including pets, can also show paralysis.

When meeting with such an animal, you should not come close to him or try to drive him away. On the contrary, you need to exclude any contact, and then contact the veterinary services. After that, the animal can be killed or

euthanized in the presence of the district police officer, who will draw up a protocol. Then the animal's head should be taken for examination - despite the presence of symptoms, the final rabies can only be confirmed on the basis of an analysis of its brain.

It was the desire to eliminate a possible focus of the disease that the Yakutsk authorities in early March explained the killing of about 200 animals in the city shelter.

But in some cases, if we are not talking about the terminal stage, the symptoms in animals may coincide with the symptoms of other treatable diseases. Then the specialists can euthanize him and place him in quarantine for observation.

The problem, however, is that there are practically no suitable quarantine facilities in Russia, especially at the district level, so this practice is almost never used.

The virus is transmitted through saliva, so a bite is enough for infection (bites on the head or hands are considered especially dangerous) and simply getting saliva on the skin, where there may be an open wound. It is possible to stop the development of the disease thanks to the introduction of the vaccine and the treatment of the wound, therefore, in this case, the speed with which a person turns to doctors for help plays a decisive role.

The disease may not appear immediately, but in the period from a week to one year. Most often we are talking about several months.

"The initial symptoms of rabies include fever and pain, as well as unusual or unexplained tingling, tingling, or burning (paresthesia) sensations at the wound site. As the virus spreads through the central nervous system, progressive fatal inflammation of the brain and spinal cord develops," the WHO website says.

As the virus spreads through the central nervous system, symptoms such as hydrophobia, aerophobia may also appear, in some cases, rabies leads to gradual paralysis.

It is important to understand that from the moment the disease manifests itself, it will be impossible to cope with it. On average, the course of the disease takes about ten days, after which death occurs.

- If there is a possibility of infection, then a person has a day, a maximum of two, to prevent the possible development of the disease. You must immediately contact the doctors who will vaccinate you," recalls Veronika Matyushina.

In this case, precautions must be taken even if the animal looks healthy, but has not been vaccinated against rabies or nothing is known about it.

- Carriage of viruses can be long-term, it depends on the species characteristics of the animal, and on the place where it was bitten. If possible, such animals should be quarantined for observation, - says Pavel Rakhmanin.

The World Health Organization recommends starting by immediately washing the wound thoroughly with soap and disinfecting it - even before carrying out the so-called post-exposure prophylaxis (administration of a vaccine or a course of vaccines after a bite).

The owner or other occupants of the home may simply not know that they have contracted rabies until it is too late to treat the disease. Moreover, if revaccination is carried out every year and performed by a competent

specialist, then its action will be enough even with a strong bite from an infected animal, Pavel Rakhmanin points out.

At the first signs of a disease in a pet, you must immediately contact a veterinarian, without trying to self-medicate, remind in Rospotrebnadzor.

If the animal has not been vaccinated, but has come into contact with a wild or street animal, you must immediately contact the veterinary station, where he will be vaccinated and possibly quarantined for observation.

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