Rabies Prevention for Students Script

Slide 1:

Today we’re going to be learning about being safe around bats, which can carry a disease called rabies.

Slide 2:

By the end of this presentation, you should be able to: know what rabies is and where it comes from, how bats benefit the environment, what to do if you find a bat, and how to stay safe and prevent rabies

Slide 3:

Bats are cool animals: they eat insects like mosquitoes, fly around at night, and play an important part in nature. They come in all shapes and sizes, some are big with large wings and long noses, others are small and have flat faces. There are many types of bats in Washington, and they each have their own habitats. Some like to live in caves or rock crevices, in trees, under bridges, or other structures. They often live together in groups of bats, called roosts. The most common types of bats in Washington include the little brown bat, the big brown bat and the pallid bat (pictured on slide).

Slide 4:

Bats are an important part of our environment. They eat bugs and pollinate flowers. Some people think bats look like a bird because of how they act and how they fly, but they are actually mammals with fur! It’s important that we enjoy bats from far away so they can work, and because sometimes they can carry a disease called rabies which can make people or pets very sick.

Slide 5:

Rabies is a virus. Viruses are tiny germs that can make humans and animals very sick or even die. Bats can carry the rabies virus, and they can spread it to people or animals, including our pets. Humans and pets can get rabies from a bat scratch or bite.

Slide 6:

Bats are very cool animals, but it is safest to stay away from them! If you see a bat or touch a bat, or a bat bites or scratches you, it’s important to tell an adult right away. You won’t be in trouble!

Slide 7:

Sometimes if a bat is sick or injured, they can fall on the ground. If you see a bat on the ground, tell an adult right away and DON’T touch it. The bat might be sick.

Slide 8:

Pets like dogs and cats can get rabies too, but we can keep them from getting sick by giving them a shot. Rabies shots are given by veterinarians (your pets’ doctor!), ask your parents if your pets have gotten the rabies shot.

Slide 9:

Let’s practice what to do if you find a bat! Let’s pretend you’re playing with your friends at recess on the playground, and you see a bat under the slide, what should you do?

Slide 10:

If you see a bat on the ground, stop! Don’t touch the bat! Tell an adult right away. If you already touched the bat, make sure to tell the adult that too. You won’t be in trouble! An adult will call public health to talk with them about the bat. Remember, if a bat is on the ground, it could be because it is sick or hurt.

Slide 11:

Remember that bats are important to our ecosystems, but they can carry germs like rabies that can make us sick. Enjoy learning about bats from afar and respect their space. If you find a bat, remember to tell an adult right away.

Slide 12:

Thank you for learning about bats and rabies today! Does anyone have any questions?