

## Animal Bites and Rabies

The City of Amarillo Department of Public Health investigates reports of animal bites and can coordinate rabies pre-exposure or post-exposure vaccination.

Vaccine and Immunoglobulin can be purchased from several distributors and maintained for ready use, or shipped overnight as needed.

City of Amarillo Municipal Code Title 8, Chapter 8-2, Article 4, Section 8-2-72. requires every physician or practitioner to report animal bite cases to the Animal Management & Welfare department at 806-378-3038.

### Some things to remember about rabies and animal bites:

- Not everyone bitten by an animal will be recommended to receive post-exposure prophylaxis.
- Prophylaxis for cat or dog bites is recommended based on the animal's behavior at the time, whether or not the animal was provoked, and the vaccination history of the animal.
- Rodents, ground squirrels, armadillos, opossums, prairie dogs and wild pigs are some animals considered to be *low risk* of transmitting rabies. *High risk* animals are bats, skunks, raccoons, foxes, and coyotes.
- Best defense: keep animals on leashes and vaccinated, and limit contact with animals you do not know.

### If you have been bitten...

**1.** Obtain contact information of the bite animal's owner, if possible.

**2.** Wash the wound as quickly as possible with soap and water (and an iodine-based antiseptic if you have one.)

**3.** Contact City of Amarillo Animal Management and Welfare at **806-378-3038** or **911** to report the bite.

**4.** Seek medical care if necessary for wound care.

#### Pre-Exposure

- Administered for travel to certain countries or entry into positions/schooling to work with animals
- Vaccine only

**Vaccine:** Given on day 0 (day vaccine is started), 7, 21 OR 28. Administered in deltoid (unless infant.)

Vaccine series is generally between \$700 - \$1000.

#### **Prophylaxis Guidelines**

#### Post-Exposure

- Recommended for animal bite victims determined to be at moderate or high risk of rabies
- Vaccine + Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG)

**Vaccine:** Given on day 0 (day vaccine is started), 3, 7, and 14. Additional dose given on day 28 for immune compromised victims. Administered in deltoid (unless infant.)

**HRIG:** Dosage based on weight. Administered around bite site. Remainder in gluteal muscle or another muscle away from the bite site. Average cost: \$3k - \$5k.

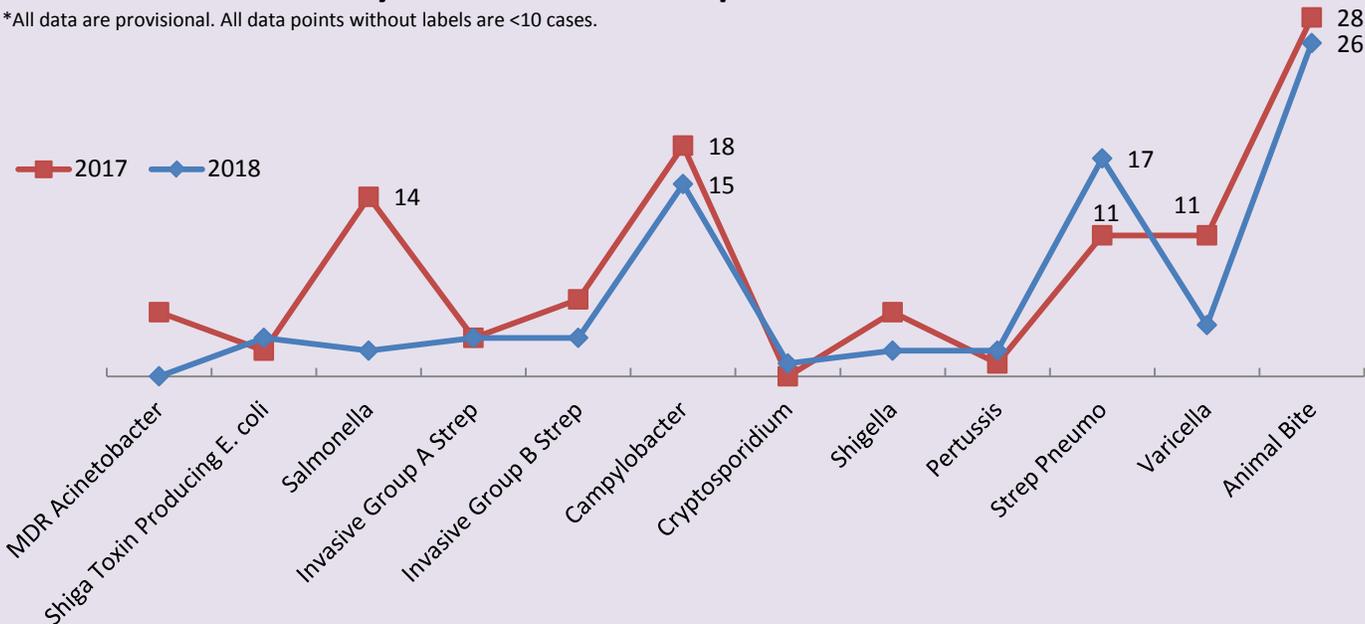
**Bat Migration: A quick note** A majority of Mexican free-tailed bats - the most common of the 32 bat species found in Texas - migrate between February and early Spring back to Texas. During this time, there may be increased bat travel in Texas, followed by formation of large colonies where bats will raise their young.

**We encourage all to remember:**

1. If you see a bat on the ground, do not touch it. Contact Animal Management and Welfare if you think you may have had contact with a bat or see a bat on the ground.
2. Do not bother the bats by throwing objects at them, shining any type of light at them, or getting close to them if they are emerging from a habitat.

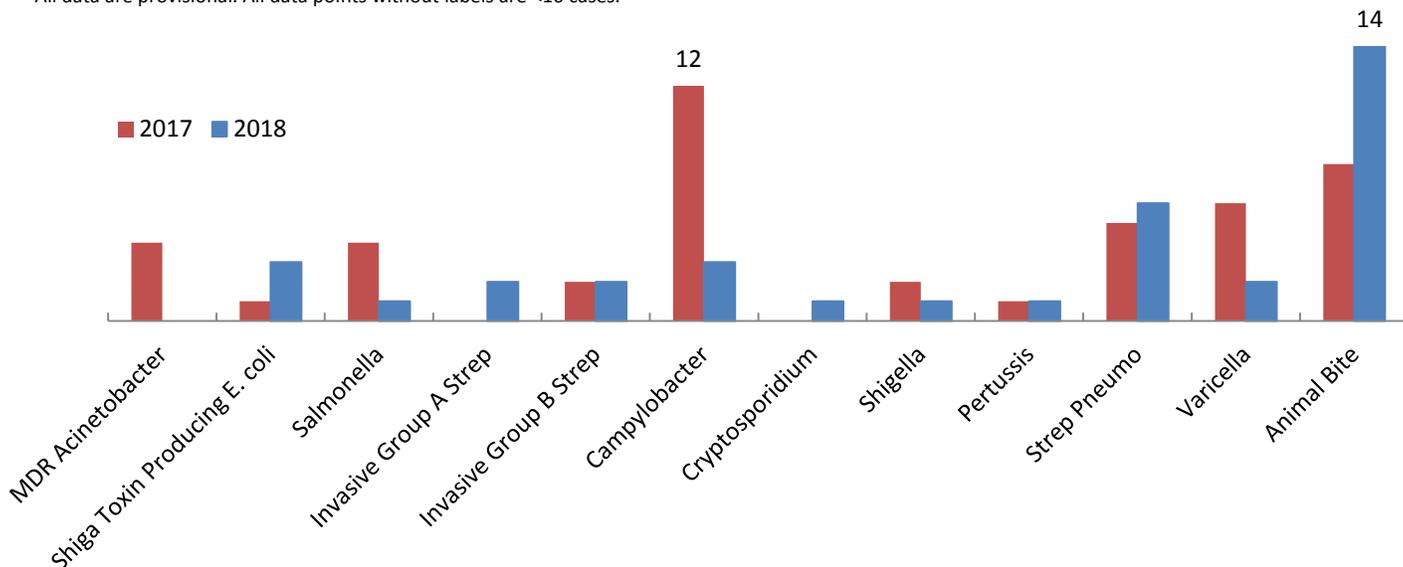
**2017 and 2018 January – March Case Comparison of Selected Illness\***

\*All data are provisional. All data points without labels are <10 cases.



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To be included in the email distribution list for health alerts and advisories, email request to [Mark.Price@amarillo.gov](mailto:Mark.Price@amarillo.gov)

Communicable Disease Reporting  
 Gather patient demographics, relevant labs, and office notes  
 Fax all information with a coversheet to 806-378-6306, attn: Communicable Disease  
 For more information call: Laurie Burton – 806-378-6321 or Kirstin Williams – 806-378-6353  
 List: <http://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/investigation/conditions/>



**Public Health**  
 Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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