



# GARE À LA RAGE

## BEWARE RABIES



Although not present in France, rabies still exists in many countries.



Cases of rabies in France are all found in animals infected abroad.



Once the symptoms have appeared, rabies is invariably fatal.

### Examples

In 2013, a kitten adopted on a Moroccan beach developed the disease after being brought back to France.

In 2015, a puppy that had travelled to Algeria died from rabies after returning to France.

In 2020, a puppy brought illegally into France from Spain turned out to be suffering from rabies.

## Preventing rabies from entering France

### Why has your animal been placed under observation?

Your animal has been placed under observation because it has entered France without meeting the regulatory health requirements (EU regulation UE 576/2013), requirements that provide safeguards against rabies.

### Why is the observation period so long?

→ To be sure that your animal is not infected.

Rabies is a disease whose incubation period can be as long as six months. Your animal may therefore develop the condition at any time during that period. Any abnormal behaviour or symptoms in your animal, or indeed its death, must be reported to your veterinarian.

→ To be sure that it cannot infect other animals or people.

An animal can pass on the infection by biting, scratching or licking broken skin even before the symptoms of rabies appear (up to a fortnight before clinical signs are visible).

### Why take these steps against rabies?

Rabies is a serious disease that affects all mammals. It is transmissible to humans and is always fatal once the symptoms have appeared.

Worldwide, it is a disease that still kills a human being every 10 minutes.

France acquired rabies-free status in 2001 and since then it has had only isolated cases (12 dogs and cats) following the arrival in the country of animals that did not present the safeguards required by regulations.

Rabies remains widespread around the world – even inside the European Union.



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