

been killed off in a year or two. Let's help the elementary teacher accomplish this job of giving our children a knowledge of the world in which we live. Your future high school and college biology students will be better for the background they will have had. One word of warning. Be prepared to

upgrade your courses. The future biology students will not be satisfied with your rehash of old materials and your theory that you have to start all over because it was done so poorly at the lower levels. Good biology education is now taking place in the elementary schools.

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### **Rabies V: What to Do If Bitten**

It should be emphasized that everyone bitten by domestic or wild animals need not undergo antirabic treatment. If the bite or scratch has been inflicted by an animal obviously not rabid or demonstrating any sign of rabies, the treatment is not necessary.

At the same time, there are several situations in which the antirabic treatment is imperative. Obviously, if the bite has come from an animal known to be suffering from rabies or has certain suggestive symptoms, the treatment should be commenced at once. Also, treatment is mandatory if the animal causing the injury has been killed or is otherwise unavailable for observation and diagnosis.

Ideally, the animal, be it a dog or whatever, should be apprehended, confined, and placed under the care and supervision of a veterinarian. For about two weeks, it will be treated normally, and if no rabies symptoms manifest themselves and it remains well otherwise, it can be released and the matter forgotten.

If, however, rabies symptoms appear, the veterinarian will have the animal destroyed in such a manner as not to damage the brain. The head is then dispatched to a laboratory to be examined for the presence of "Negri bodies" in the brain tissue as they are considered certain evidence of rabies. When to begin the antirabic treatment depends on the individual situation and the advice of the supervising veterinarian and attending physician.

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### **Rabies VI: Control and Elimination**

Though horrible in its ramifications and impervious to cure, rabies can not only be

controlled, it can be eliminated. Many persons each year are inconvenienced, to say the least, by having to take antirabic vaccinations. Sometimes farm animals have to be destroyed and many pets needlessly die. Yet all of this could be prevented.

Control in domestic animals is not very complicated and once established not very difficult to maintain, but it takes determination and cooperation especially on the part of pet owners.

Many localities not only require that dogs be licensed, but be vaccinated against rabies as well. The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) unequivocally supports the vaccination program and urges all pet owners to have their pets vaccinated whether or not required to do so by local ordinances. Veterinary medical scientists have developed vaccines which are safe and effective and offer maximum protection against rabies. Every dog three months of age or older should be vaccinated. Three-month old puppies should be revaccinated in six months. Generally, all dogs should be vaccinated once a year. A veterinarian is the best source of information on the necessary frequency of vaccination for a pet. Vaccination is in no way harmful to the animal.

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### **State Biologists Association**

Maine biologists, high school and collegiate, have organized a state association under the leadership of Alton Gustafson, Bowdoin College, and Joseph Vaughan, Brunswick High School. The first meeting of the group was held May 7, 1966, and featured Dr. Richard Cowan of the Smithsonian Institution and the OBTA presentation.