# Ethics of the Anti-Rabies PEP



Tianyu Tan Health Care Ethics Internship Dr. Caminiti 17 Jun 2025

A Study in Health Care Ethics

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What is Rabies? (The Tragedy of Leo Lopez)



## What is Rabies?

- Pathological Agent: Rabies Lyssavirus
  - Lyssa = "Rage" in Greek
- **Transmission**: Saliva from an infected mammal(usually a dog, bat, raccoon, skunk, etc.)
  - Bites
  - Scratches
- **Deadliest** neurological disease
  - o Fatality Rate: ~100%



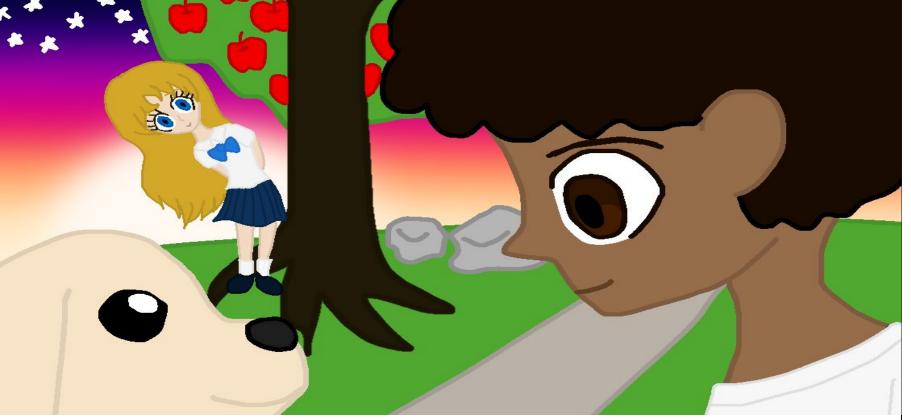
Our (Un)Lucky Star

- But the Rabies virus can also infect humans, humans like poor Leo Lopez...
- Leo Lopez has always been a kind and compassionate soul, ready to help anybody who is struggling and sick...whether they have hands or paws or wings...
- ...and sadly, the Rabies virus will make sure Leo's immense <u>compassion</u> towards any struggling creature will be his <u>downfall</u>.



# Leo & Besties

- Leo and his besties, Aisha Atieno and Patrick O'Malley, are currently the biggest stars of the Ocean Elementary School's ballet show, "Swan Lake".
  - Leo is the Prince, Aisha is the Swan Princess, and Patrick works backstage as the costume designer.
    - Leo has courageously stood up for Aisha once when she was being bullied by some cruel, racist boys who made fun of her for being the only Black girl in their ballet class. Leo has helped Aisha to find another ballet class that was more inclusive, respectful, and compassionate to people of all backgrounds.
    - Leo sat together with Patrick at the lunch table and complimented a warm sweater Patrick has knitted when everybody else shunned Patrick for liking fashion design and called Patrick "too girly to be cool".



# Leo & The Puppy

- After a long ballet practice, Aisha's dads picks her up, and Patrick's grandma picks him up, and Leo's parents were still very busy at Super Mart, the little grocery store they work at, so Leo decides to take a peaceful walk in the park...but a cute little puppy catches his eye!
- The puppy is...
  - Unusually docile
  - Struggling to walk
- Leo's kind heart ached for the puppy, seeing how exhausted she looked, and he just wanted to pick her up in his arms and carry her to a safe, peaceful place...



## Oh no...

- ...and Leo carries her to the apple tree, somewhere soft and safe where she could rest.
- The puppy curls up in Leo's warm arms, **licking** his hand, her saliva getting inside an almost-healed wound on his left hand...
- "Awww, it tickles!" Leo smiles before putting the cute puppy down beside the beautiful apple tree... "You are so adorable, you're like a little angel, and poor you, you must be so tired...here, I hope this would be a good place for you to rest...sleep well, dear."
- Leo doesn't know Rabies even as it stares right into his eyes



The Rabies Virus Infects Leo Lopez

- The Rabies virus enters Leo's body through the tiny open wound on his left hand...
- ...and slowly creeps up to his brain, neuron by neuron...
- No symptoms whatsoever.



## Incubation Period

- Leo happily goes on with his life as normal
  - o Dancing with Aisha, his beautiful Swan Princess...
  - O Going to the mall and checking out cute clothes with Patrick
  - Most importantly...working on his big dream of becoming a ballet dancer everyday, putting a radio in his room and just playing Tchaikovsky's beautiful music as he pirouettes and plies on his ballet shoes



## Headache ·

exhausted she must have been...so he decides to cook Aisha's favorite salmon teriyaki bento and deliver it to her...Leo knows that Aisha is the biggest salmon fan!

Leo and Aisha talk together and talk about preparing for the Ocean Elementary School's production of Swan Lake

Leo and Aisha talk together and talk about preparing for the Ocean Elementary School's production of Swan Lake and the presentation they will soon do in Mr. Banerjee's history class on an art form of their choice(Leo and Aisha both chose ballet)...and Leo suddenly feels a little **headache**, but he brushes it off...he's just so happy to see Aisha again!



- hanging out at the mall. Some are here for the food, others are here for the plushies...but Patrick is here for the fashion. Backache:
  - After shopping for some pretty shirts at the Beach House, Patrick is admiring the newest apparel that just came out at La Vie En Rose, the prettiest prom dress boutique.
  - Patrick draws the beautiful dresses and blouses he sees in his notebook, the beauty around him always gives him inspiration for the costumes he creates with his sewing machine.
  - Leo feels a little **backache**, but he brushes it off, thinking that it must just be that he's been walking around the mall looking at the cutest jackets for 5 hours already...



# Tingling at Bite

- Every Sunday is a Movie Day for the Lopez family...no wonder Leo is so happy today! Sunday is the only time where Mr. and Mrs. Lopez don't have to go to work for evening shifts at Super Mart, the only night where they could all spend time together as a family, a happy family...and Leo loves watching movies, especially ballet movies!
- Leo and his family began re-watching Swan Lake again, and oh, his dad made the most delicious nachos for them to eat!
- Suddenly, Leo feels a little **tingling on his hand(where the puppy licked him about a month ago)...**but Leo was too focused on watching the Swan Princess defeat the Evil Wizard!



Note: Everyone in this picture has something to eat! :)

### At the Sushi Bar

- Leo, Aisha, and Patrick meet together at their favorite Sushi Bar in the mall...but Leo feels a little "under the weather".
- Aisha worriedly asks Leo if he's feeling okay, and Leo tells her that he feels like he
  has the flu.
- Patrick tries to share a bit of his rainbow roll sushi with Leo, but Leo doesn't feel like eating...
- In fact, Leo doesn't even feel like eating the delicious spicy tuna rolls...



This Doesn't Feel Like An Average Flu!

- Leo is starting to feel that this is not just the average flu he has...
  - Leo is struggling to...
    - Hold his pen(without dropping it)
    - Focus on writing an essay on classical ballet(his favorite topic!)
- But at least...if he just gets a good night's sleep and wakes up tomorrow...everything will get better, right?

Leo is so tired...

• So Leo tries to sleep it off...maybe tomorrow, this weird flu will just disappear...

Leo tries to sleep it off...hoping...hoping...



## Descent

- But everything will only get worse...and worse...and worse...
- Since Leo's first headache, there's no way to go but down...



The End

- The Rabies virus has already reached Leo's brain.
- It's too late.



#### **Anxiety**

Leo suddenly finds himself being terrified of everything...Tchaikovsky's music sound like alarm bells, the barre looks like towering prison bars, the ballet shoes he now struggles to put on seem to laugh at his face like demonic mouths.



#### Agitation

Leo suddenly finds himself becoming upset at what would usually never make him feel upset. When Patrick finished designing Leo's prince costume for the Swan Lake, Leo suddenly found himself so upset that he started to cry...



#### Anhedonia

Nothing can make Leo happy anymore...not even seeing the Nutcracker at the town theatre on a field trip with all of his classmates and his favorite music teacher, Ms. Vu.



Dysphagia Leo's parents finally had some free time from their jobs as grocery store cashiers, and they were so happy to finally have dinner with their son. Leo's dad made his wife and son's favorite beef tacos...but Leo was unable to swallow anything without choking in pain.



#### Photosensitivity

Leo and Patrick visit Grace, a cute little local boutique. The beautiful lights that once delighted Leo's eyes now blinded them mercilessly.



Fainting Spells
While doing a presentation in Mr. Banerjee's history class with Aisha on the history of ballet...Leo suddenly blacked out and fainted. After Leo woke up, he apologized profusely to Aisha and Mr. Banerjee for ruining the presentation by accidentally fainting.



Loss of Muscle Coordination While trying to dance with Aisha, Leo finds himself falling and tripping constantly, as if the Rabies virus was just pulling his body down. Leo felt unimaginably guilty for not being a good dance partner to Aisha, to hold her like the beautiful princess she was to him.



Loss of Focus
Leo was usually very good with words,
but during a vocabulary test in Ms.
Gaddafi's English class, Leo found his
head getting dizzy...it was as if the
Rabies virus is driving his brain
around in circles. Leo got a 0 on the
vocab test and felt very ashamed of
himself for failing.



#### Insomnia

Leo cannot sleep...no matter how much he tries. He sees terrible things, he hears horrible cries...that were never there, but will forever echo in his melting brain...and they kept Leo up all night for weeks, wearing out Leo's already exhausted brain.



#### Hallucinations

Leo woke up after yet another sleepless night, the ninth time in a row...and he wearily watches the world outside his window...wait, that's not the sky...that's not the sky...



#### Amnesia

Leo was walking to Mrs. Pereira's math class, and suddenly he realizes that he is unable to recognize anyone in the hallway...or remember the way to Mrs. Pereira's classroom. It was if Leo's memory has been wiped clean.



#### Seizures

While doing a beautiful pas de deux with Aisha, Leo suddenly feels confused, a sense of horror wells up in him...and he has a seizure. Leo falls to the ground, shaking uncontrollably, teeth clenching tight, and foaming at the mouth.

## Rabies Encephalitis



- Leo has always dreamed of being a ballet dancer...but it seems that now, the Rabies virus has pulled him into a horrible dance of its own...with Leo's poor brain as its dance floor, a dance floor that it will soon trample to pieces and burn to the very ground.
- The Rabies virus has invaded Leo's brain, resulting in Rabies encephalitis.
- The brain, the beautiful big library where every neuron is a book that tells the story of Leo Lopez...is being burnt down, page by page...book by book...shelf by shelf...
- Leo slips in and out of feverish unconsciousness.
- Leo's throat clenches shut and spasms when he tries to breathe.
- Leo can no longer move his body himself, as the Rabies virus takes his every nerve in its hand.
- Leo can no longer remember all of his happy memories...the morning he did the Pas De Deux with Aisha, the afternoon he went shopping at the mall with Patrick, the movie nights with his dear family...
- Leo's very sense of reality will crumble down completely in the Rabies virus's coda.

Going to the Doctor



- Leo's parents finally save up enough money to go to a doctor, and the only doctor they could afford is Dr. James White, who did not speak Spanish.
- When Leo's mom asked for a Spanish interpreter to be present, Dr. White told her to "stop asking for so much special snowflake treatment" because "we're in America, so speak English!"
- Dr. White blamed Leo's seizures on anxiety, saying to Leo's parents: "Ugh, kids these days are so sensitive and brittle, anything can just send them into a seizure! Your son Leo is already 11! Leo should seriously MAN UP and stop being such a baby!"
- Leo Lopez and his parents were very heartbroken by Dr. White's cruel words...but sadly, it was not the first time they were treated this way since they immigrated to the US from Mexico.
- Leo's father desperately asked Dr. White for some medication to stop Leo's painful seizures...
- Dr. White said smugly: "Why should I? It's not like you can pay for it, Mr. Lopez! You and your wife are both just grocery store cashiers who make minimum wage! Why would I give you my precious medication to your little brat if you can't even pay for it? Quit leeching off me, you lazy pigs, and GET OUT before I call the police on you for trying to get medication that you can't even pay for!"

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# Hydrophobia:

- Despite his excruciating Rabies symptoms, Leo still pushes himself to dance, he was worried that if he quit, Ocean Elementary School's "Swan Lake" will be ruined. Leo knows that everybody, dancer or backstage, has put a lot of heart into the ballet show, and he does not want to let anyone down.
   Put Loo is thirsty unbagraphy thirsty, his throat is day as a dosort, and his line are chapped and
- But Leo is thirsty, unbearably thirsty...his throat is dry as a desert, and his lips are chapped and bleeding.
- Yet the moment Leo even sees a glass of water in Aisha's hand...his throat shuts TIGHT and starts to spasm painfully, and he cannot drink a single drop. It's as if the Rabies virus has hijacked him to become terrified of water even as he is dying of thirst.



Coma

• The human brain is such a fragile beauty.



## Death

- After five whole weeks of horrifying hallucinations, severe seizures, painful muscle spasms, being terribly exhausted yet
  not being able to sleep even a minute, and being unimaginably thirsty but not being able to even think about water
  without his bleeding throat shutting tight...
- ...the Rabies virus has reached Leo's brainstem, stopping his heart.
- Leo has passed away from Rabies at the age of 11.



## Anti-Rabies PEP

- This was a very heartbreaking tragedy that NEVER should have happened.
- If Leo Lopez had the anti-Rabies PEP at his doctor's office(before any Rabies symptoms started):
  - 1 Human Rabies Immunoglobulin(HRIG)
  - 4 Rabies vaccines
- Leo would have survived...he would be able to still dance with Aisha, go to the mall with Patrick, spend time with his family, and become the ballet dancer he always dreamed to be.



The Heartbreaking. Struggle

But even if Mr. Lopez and Mrs. Lopez knew that Leo was exposed to a rabid puppy...would they be able to afford the anti-Rabies PEP and save Leo's life?

The anti-Rabies PEP is extremely expensive. The CDC estimates that the anti-Rabies PEP costs around \$3,000 to \$7,000 on average.

Mrs. Lopez and Mr. Lopez are both grocery store cashiers who make minimum-wage. In order to save up for the anti-Rabies PEP, they would need to work for a very long time...and perhaps by then, the Rabies virus would have reached Leo's brain anyway, and the anti-Rabies PEP would no longer work, leaving to Leo to die from Rabies.

Bioethical Principles of the Anti-Rabies PEP



Beneficence/ Maleficence Are the high costs of the anti-Rabies PEP doing good?

- Scientists: Yes
  - Dr. Mei Chu, who has worked very hard on manufacturing the anti-Rabies vaccine in her lab, will receive the pay she truly deserves for her courageous work.
- Patients: No
  - Faduma Hassan was bitten by a rabid bat while she was going out on a peaceful walk near her house...she never asked to be bitten, yet now she is forced to choose between paying a lot of money for life-saving treatment or dying a horrible death from Rabies.



Patient Autonomy

- Patients are forced to choose between:
  - Paying money to the point of bankruptcy
    - Forced to take dangerous, exhausting job(s) to make money
  - Dying a painful death
  - Deepak Gupta tried to protect his two children from a rabid fox, but was bitten in the process. Yet now Deepak has to pay \$6,000 for the anti-Rabies PEP, but his job as a kindergarten teacher would not cover the costs, so he has to take up a dangerous job at a diamond mine in order to make sure he could stay alive and continue to support his beloved family.



Social<sup>\*</sup> Justice Would the high cost of the Rabies vaccine be just to all?

- o The Office of Disease Prevention and Health promotion reports that 1 in 10 Americans do not have access to health insurance
- According to National Partnership for Women & Families in 2023...the wage gap keeps many Women of Color in poverty:
  - For every \$1 a White man makes...
    - White woman: 75 cents
    - Black woman: 64 cents
    - Indigenous woman: 52 cents
    - Latina: 51 cents



#### Double Whammy

- Racism in Housing Systems
  - Targets Black, Indigenous, and Latina women
    - **Environmental Racism in Underserved Communities** 
      - Exposure to Rabid Animals
      - Lack of animal vaccination
- Jayden Anderson's family was only able to afford a house in a neighborhood where there is little veterinary care, leading to rabid dogs just chasing him and his best friend, Valeria Sanchez, as they are just trying to walk down the street

#### Most Vulnerable Communities



South Asia India, Nepal, Sri Lanka



Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand



Sub-Saharan Africa Democratic Republic of Congo,



Latin America

Colombia, Bolivia, Haiti Nigeria, Zambia

The anti-Rabies PEP is very scarce(if not outright absent) in many of these countries around the world due to the high cost of its manufacture and how many people living these countries are seen as "unable to afford it", leaving thousands of people in these countries to not have another choice other than dying from Rabies when they are attacked by a rabid animal.



# Dangers of Refusing Vaccines



## The Tragedy of Leo Lopez

- Leo Lopez died from Rabies at the age of 11...all because he had a golden heart that wanted to show care to a little puppy.
- Now Leo will never laugh, cry, dance ballet, or hang out at the mall with his friends...or become the ballet dancer he has always dreamed of being...
- Why did this have to happen?
- Rabies is so rare in the USA these days...so how did Leo catch such a terrifying virus from a little puppy?



### A Man And His Puppy

- The puppy originally belonged to a 35-year old man named Henry Davis, who spent his days listening to Hidden Truth Network, a conspiracy theory podcast, and he tends to believe in any conspiracy theory that is said to him without question..
- After watching an episode about "evil UFOs abducting humans" on Hidden Truth Network, Henry was terrified and wanted a loyal animal to protect him.
- Henry named his puppy Angel, he hoped that she would be his guardian angel against the UFOs coming for him.



At the Vet

- Henry Davis brought Angel to the town vet, Dr. Gupta, who tried to give Angel a Rabies vaccine as she is more than 4
  months old.
- Henry was AFRAID! Hidden Truth Network told Henry that all vaccines cause autism in one episode.
- "NO! DON'T GIVE ANGEL THE RABIES VACCINE, IT WILL MAKE HER AUTISTIC! ANGEL WILL GET AUTISM IF YOU VACCINATE HER! I heard on Hidden Truth Network that the Rabies vaccine makes dogs AUTISTIC! PLEASE, DR. GUPTA, I DON'T WANT MY DEAR DOGGY TO GET AUTISM! HOW WILL AN AUTISTIC DOG BE ABLE TO PROTECT ME FROM THE EVIL UFOS COMING TO ABDUCT ME?!" Henry cried out in fear.

Uh, WHAT? "Rabies is probably not even that bad, right?" Henry Davis thought to himself, "I heard you just foam at the mouth, and what's so scary about that? It sounds less scary than the common cold! Hidden Truth Network told me that the Rabies virus isn't even real, and it is probably something you doctors made up just to inject us with vaccines with microchips in them that allow the UFOs to find us and kidnap us! You know what, Dr. Gupta? I ain't scared of Rabies! Rabies is just a harmless little thing! I will NOT let you vaccinate my Angel and give her autism! I will PROTECT my puppy from the evil vaccines!" Henry refused to ever vaccinate Angel for Rabies no matter how much Dr. Gupta begged him. Henry was just too afraid of his little puppy becoming autistic from the anti-Rabies vaccine.



#### A Bat Bite

- Henry Davis was worried that the evil aliens from the UFOs may abduct Angel, so he set up a doghouse for her in his junkyard, hoping that they won't find her.
- No alien has ever come for angel...but one day, a bat did.
- A rabid bat was just flying around aimlessly, bumping into everything as the Rabies virus drove his brain however it pleased...and then he fell into Henry's junkyard, where Angel was sleeping...
- The Rabies virus drove the bat to bite Angel...yet Angel was sleeping so soundly, and so was Henry.
- Bat bites are very hard to notice.

#### The Rabies Virus Brainwashes Angel



Angel is shaking, scared, thirsty, and hasn't slept a single-second for a whole week...the Rabies virus has broken her completely...forcing her brain to melt away into a feverish soup...forcing her to lose all of her happy memories...forcing her to her the sweet, kind heart...forcing her to become a mad, violent beast...forcing her to become just another tool for its goal of replication.

- The Rabies virus slowly takes over Angel's brain and erases the sweet, innocent puppy she was...
  - Angel becomes too tired to play fetch with Henry, she can't even walk without falling over
  - Angel is hungry, yet unable to eat any of the delicious doggy treats Henry feeds her because swallowing even a little bit makes her throat spasm painfully and spit it back out
  - Angel cannot control her own body anymore, as the Rabies virus forces her to experience multiple severe seizures everyday, and sometimes even pushes her to injure herself. The Rabies virus has once brainwashed Angel into pushing her little paw on broken glass.
  - Angel cannot control her behavior anymore, the Rabies virus drives her to bark angrily at Henry and try to bite him when all she wants is to cuddle with him and play fetch.
  - There is no Angel anymore, just Rabies.
- Rabies, like all other viruses, wants to **replicate**...and it needs a **new host**, now that Angel is dying...
- Therefore, Rabies makes every attempt to "throw itself out there".
  - Make Angel drool
  - Make the usually gentle Angel **bite** aggressively
  - Make the usually timid Angel lose her fear of humans and actively seek them out
  - Making Angel run away from her home so she could infect more mammals







#### Proliferation

- ...and it worked.
- The Rabies virus has driven Angel to violently bite...
  - A little deer in a nearby forest
  - A pet kitty belonging to a kind little girl and her family
  - Two cows on a farm
- The Rabies virus is so happy to have so many new hosts! Now it can replicate itself over and over again!



Rabies Virus Has Its Eyes on Leo

#### ...and it worked.

- Making the usually timid Angel so docile and friendly before Leo melted his heart, and he carried her gently in her arms, allowing her to lick his hand...
- ...and the Rabies virus has infected and killed a human child.



Animal: Control: Services

- One day, Henry Davis receives a call from the Animal Control Officer, LaKiesha Johnson.
- "Have you finally found my little Angel? Oh gosh...my puppy Angel's been missing, I was worried she was abducted by the EVIL ALIENS!" Henry cried.
  - LaKiesha tried not to cry as she had to break the sad news to Henry. LaKiesha had to catch Angel and euthanize herafter many reports about her aggressive behavior. Angel has been going around biting and attacking everybody in her way. LaKiesha wished that she wouldn't kill an adorable puppy like Angel, but Angel going around biting people could mean that Angel has Rabies and is spreading the dangerous virus around. Therefore, LaKiesha and her team had to catch Angel, euthanize her, and examine her brain tissue through a fluorescent antibody test as it was the only way to determine if she has Rabies, and LaKiesha's worst fears came true, the fluorescent antibody test for Angel's brain came back + for Rabies.



#### Family Traumatized

- The little deer that Angel has infected with Rabies now roams around in the forest.
- One peaceful afternoon, the al-Sayyed family was taking a walk when the little deer ran up to the three little children, trying to attack them. Mr. and Mrs. al-Sayyed quickly rushed to their children's protection.
- The Rabies virus was unable to make the little deer attack the poor al-Sayyed family as Mr. and Mrs. al-Sayyed protected their children with all their heart...
- But the Rabies virus was able to drive the little deer into ramming her head into a tree branch heavily until she bled out and died before the al-Sayyed family's eyes, traumatizing them.



#### Pet Cat Put Down

- Nabi, the beloved pet cat of the Jeong family that Angel has infected, began to show signs of Rabies.
  - Nabi stopped eating, started having seizures, and began uncontrollably attacking the family he loves, including his best friend, Eun-Ae Jeong, the 5-year old daughter of the Jeong family who loved him as if he was her little brother.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jeong had no choice but to take Nabi to the vet, Dr. Mwangi, and put Nabi to sleep to deliver him from the excruciating suffering that the Rabies virus is putting him through.



#### Poor Cows

- Daisy and Betsy, the two cows that Angel has infected, belonged to a kind-hearted and compassionate farmer named Tyrone Baker who cared deeply for his animals but yet was struggling financially as he was in deep medical debt after paying for his 6-year old granddaughter's chemotherapy treatment, as her birth parents have both passed away in a car crash when she was only 4.
- Tyrone was unable to pay for the anti-Rabies PEP for his cows, Daisy and Betsy, due to his medical debt.
- In the barn, Daisy was completely paralyzed and drooling, while Betsy was choking, and having severe uncontrollable muscle spasms.
- Tyrone had no choice but to put Daisy and Betsy out of their misery.



### Consequences of Not Vaccinating

By choosing to not vaccinate Angel for Rabies, Henry unknowingly allowed for Angel, the little deer, Nabi the pet cat, the two cows on Tyrone's farm, and the 11-year old Leo Lopez to suffer an excruciating death from Rabies.

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By choosing to not vaccinate Angel for Rabies, Henry has unknowingly helped the Rabies virus.



#### Regrets

- "Oh my gosh...what...what have I done?" Henry's mind was paralyzed, yes, paralyzed with fear, "I...I caused this horrible Rabies outbreak to happen? I helped the...I helped the Rabies virus? But I...all I ever wanted was to protect my Angel from getting autism! I was just so scared that the Rabies vaccine could turn her autistic! Hidden Truth Network told me that the Rabies vaccine causes autism in dogs! I didn't vaccinate Angel because I just didn't want her to become autistic! I just wanted to protect Angel, I just wanted to protect my little puppy, and I, and I, and I-"
- Henry suddenly felt a sharp **headache** and he just remembered that Angel has nipped his finger about a while ago...



What Can YOU Do to Prevent Rabies?

Vaccinate Your Cats and Dogs

- Please vaccinate your pet dogs and cats against Rabies according to the law.
- Yes, getting a shot may hurt...but getting Rabies hurt much more.
- Prevention is more effective than treatment.
- Please protect your furry friends!

Vaccinate your pet cats and dogs against Rabies



#### Rabies-Proof Your Home

- Protect your home from rabid animals
  - Seal off any openings in walls(where bats may roost)
  - No trash cans outside(could attract raccoons)
  - Don't leave food outside, such as bird seeds(could attract raccoons)
  - Lock all doors and windows, especially during night(to prevent rabid animals from coming in)
  - Please try to keep pets inside the house



Don't Let Pets Roam: Without Supervision:

- Just like many people, pets love to run and play under the Sun
- Sadly, freely roaming pets are more likely to be exposed to the Rabies virus as it is more likely for them to encounter rabid animals
- Please protect your pets by keeping a close eye on them(and perhaps putting them on a gentle leash) when they are outside

Please Leave : Animals Alone :

- Yes, a lot of critters are SUPER cute! It's natural to want to pet the cute lil trash panda that just showed up in your backyard...
- But mammals, especially wild mammals(such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, coyotes) can often carry the Rabies virus as there is no way to vaccinate all of them.
- Sometimes, critters can also be deeply stressed and disturbed by human interaction.
  - Therefore, it would be best for both you and the cute critter to smile at each other from afar.

If You See An Animal Acting Weird

- If you see a mammal(especially a bat, raccoon, fox, skunk, stray dog, stray cat):
  - Agitated and aggressive OR unusually tame and gentle
  - Trying to bite and scratch at everything, including itself
  - Hard time eating or drinking
  - o Difficulty moving around(bumps into things a lot, trips, stumbles)
  - Drooling/"Foaming at the Mouth"
- Please report the mammal to the Animal Control

Please try to leave animals





If You are Attacked by an Animal

- Try to stay calm and remember the characteristics of the animal(e.g. Species, appearance, behavior)
- Wash the wound with soap and water for at least 5 minutes, that will kill a little
- bit of the Rabies virus
   SEEK MEDICAL HELP IMMEDIATELY(get the anti-Rabies PEP before the symptoms start! Because once symptoms start, it's too late)



# Please Share the Information

- Knowledge is power
- Share what you have learned about Rabies to your family, friends, and all the folks around you...please protect them from the terrible Rabies virus!

# There are many compassionate charities dedicated to eradicating Rabies around the world.

#### **CHARITIES**

Global Alliance for Rabies Control(GARC)

Mission Rabies

End Rabies Now(ERN)

#### SERVICES

GARC is a worldwide nonprofit that seeks to eradicate canine Rabies by 2030 through a "One Health" approach that seeks to improve the health of human-beings, animals, and their shared environment. GARC creates canine vaccination programs and accessible education on animal safety and care tailored for the general public and healthcare professionals.

Mission Rabies is an UK-based charity that has mainly vaccinates dogs in South Asian countries(e.g. India) where it is reported that 1 in 3 Rabies cases are found. In 2021, Mission Rabies has vaccinated 75,000 dogs in Goa, India and educated 200,000 children on Rabies prevention. Mission Rabies continues to vaccinate dogs and provide Rabies education in countries such as Cambodia, Zambia, Mozambique, and Sri Lanka.

ERN has reduced canine Rabies cases by 98% in Latin America through dog vaccinations, and has provided 2.9 million people across the world with anti-Rabies PEP. In addition, ERN seeks to educate the public, especially children, on Rabies prevention with the Communities Against Rabies(CAR) program.

