

Q & A

ARCTIC FOX RABIES



What is Arctic Fox Rabies?

It is a contagious, fatal disease for animals and humans. The disease attacks the nervous system. Even animals that look healthy can be infected with rabies. Death is inevitable once symptoms appear.

Arctic fox rabies is common (endemic) among fox populations in Northern Québec. It is one of 3 rabies variants in Québec's wildlife population.

What are the signs and symptoms?

Sick animals may show unusual behavior or sign.

- Vomiting
- Weakness
- Difficulty walking (staggering, dragging legs)
- Excessive salivation
- Aggressive behavior

Is it safe to go hunting?

Yes. It is safe to hunt in Eeyou Istchee and elsewhere.

Headshots increase your risk of exposure to body tissues and fluids that may carry the rabies virus.

Hunters should check in with their local Cree Trappers Association (CTA) for updates and more recommendations.

Can people catch it?

Yes. It can spread easily from an infected animal's bites, scratches, or licks.

What precautions should I take when handling fur?

- The carcass of a rabid fox should be burned, including its fur.
- Always wear disposable gloves when skinning a wild animal. This protects against parasites and diseases, including rabies.

What precautions should I take when handling a carcass?

- Do not handle carcasses with bare hands. Wear thick, washable, or disposable gloves.
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose when touching carcasses and equipment.
- If possible, burn found carcasses in a landfill site, following regulations.
- Keep pets away from carcasses. Make sure they do not touch or eat them.
- Do not allow unvaccinated dogs to roam freely outside without supervision.

For more information, contact
your CTA office or visit:

[creehealth.org/health-tips/
public-health-advisory-arctic-fox-
population-calls-caution](https://creehealth.org/health-tips/public-health-advisory-arctic-fox-population-calls-caution)



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