

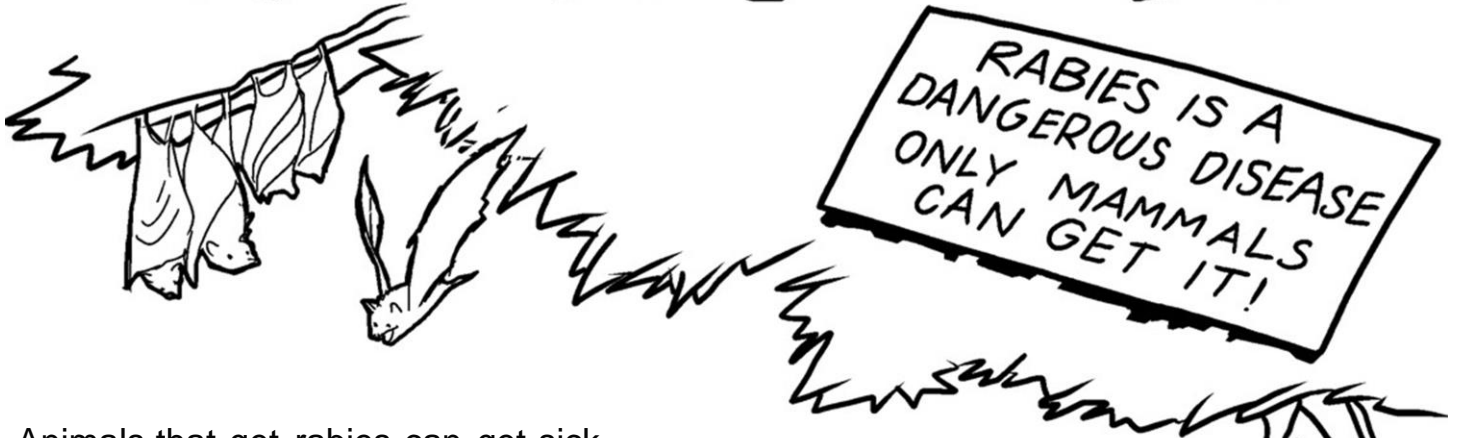
# ABOUT RABIES

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO: \_\_\_\_\_



ILLUSTRATED BY: VASILIOS PAPAGIANIS

# WHAT IS RABIES



Animals that get rabies can get sick and can die. If people get rabies, it can make them very sick too.

Unscramble the words to find out some mammals that can get rabies.

KSKNU \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
OCARNCO \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
PEPLOE \_ \_ \_ \_ \_  
GDO \_ \_ \_ \_  
TBA \_ \_ \_  
ACT \_ \_ \_



# HOW CAN YOU GET RABIES?

Rabies can spread through the bite or scratch of an animal infected with rabies.



# KEEP SAFE FROM WILD OR STRAY ANIMALS





# BATS CAN GIVE YOU RABIES

Stay safe from bats as  
you find your way  
through the path.

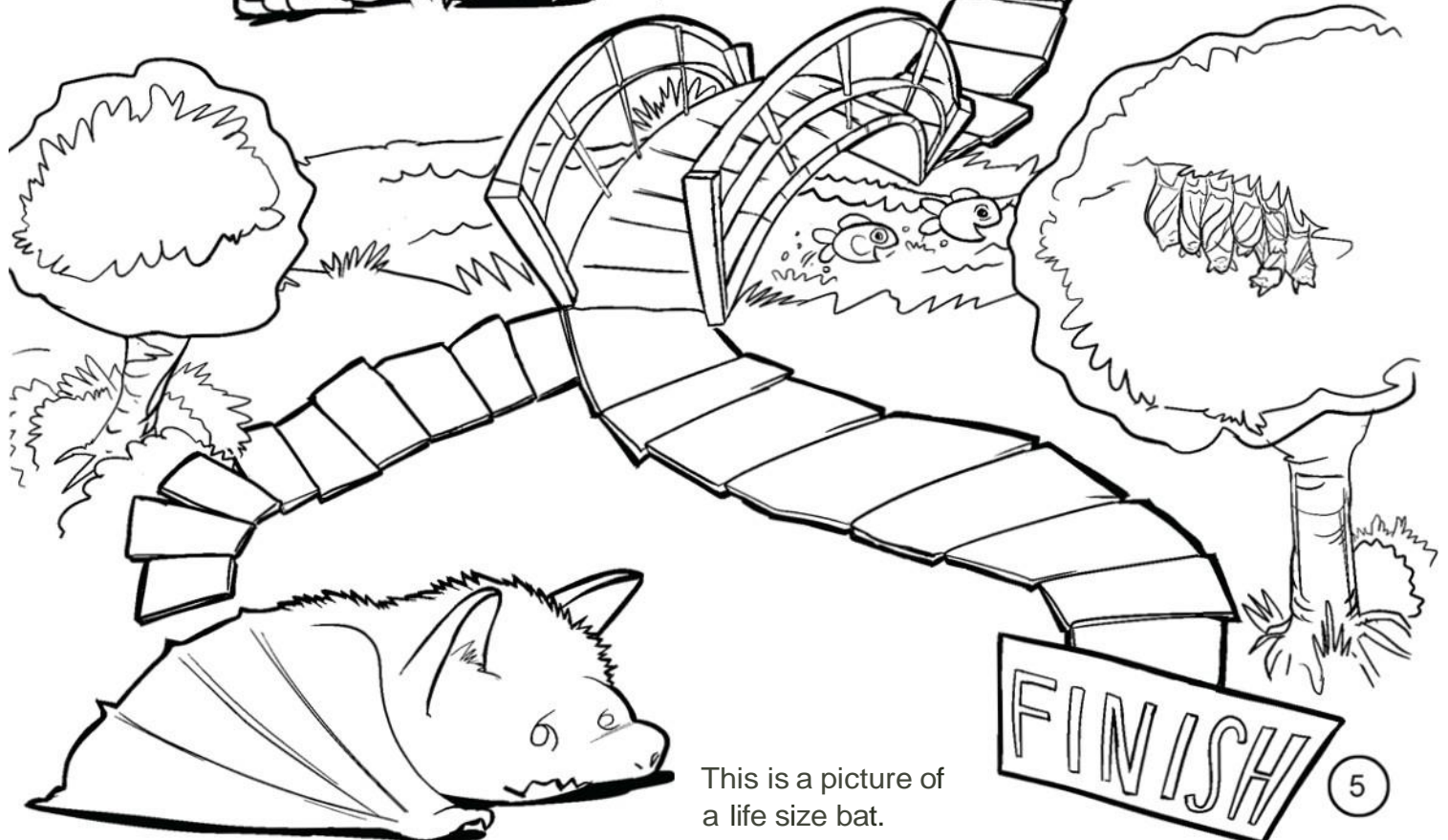
Remember to  
never touch a  
bat even if it  
looks friendly.



A healthy bat should  
never be found on  
the ground.  
Always tell an adult  
if you find a bat.



Healthy bats can be  
found high in tree  
tops, out of sunlight.



This is a picture of  
a life size bat.

# PREVENT RABIES



*Rabies Is 100% Preventable.*

*The best way to protect your pet from rabies is by getting them vaccinated. Talk to your vet about the rabies vaccine.*



# When Is It Okay To Pet An Animal?

Always use the “Three Times Rule” before petting a dog or cat.

## **Three Times Rule:**

1. Ask your parent if it is ok to pet the animal.
2. Ask the owner of the animal if it is ok to pet the animal.
3. Ask the pet by allowing them to smell your hand.

## **Other Helpful Tips:**

- Stay away from a dog that is hurt, angry or afraid.
- If a dog is guarding or protecting something, leave it alone.



# WORD SEARCH



A	A	N	I	M	A	L	R
S	Z	B	Y	D	O	G	A
C	R	A	B	I	E	S	C
R	C	U	P	X	D	E	C
A	W	F	Q	E	J	B	O
T	P	C	A	T	T	A	O
C	K	S	A	F	E	T	N
H	Z	B	I	T	E	V	X

Bat Rabies Pet Cat Raccoon  
Dog Scratch Safe Bite Animal

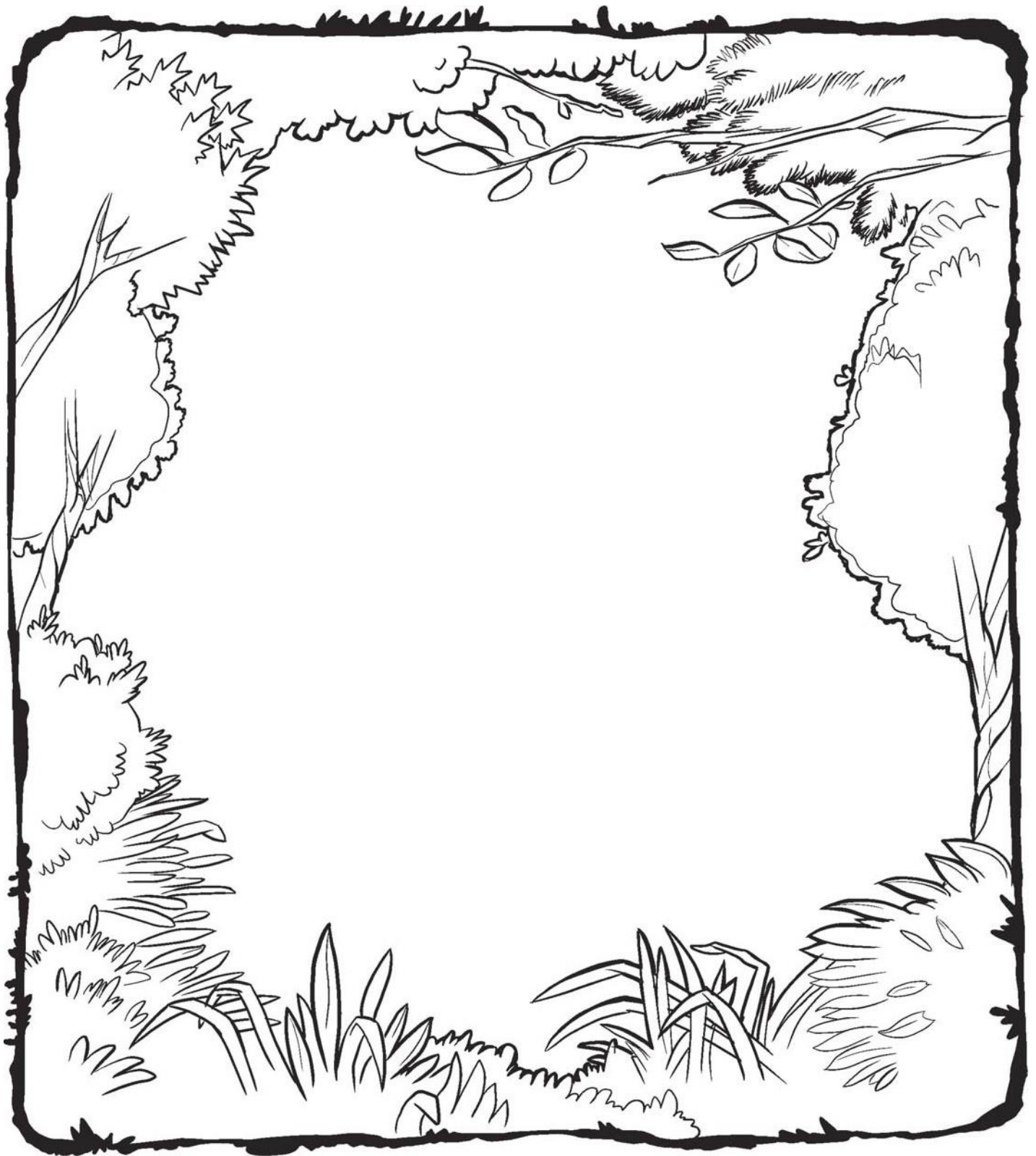


# CRACK THE CODE

E F H I L M O R S T U W

8





Draw animals that you should stay away from.

# ANSWER SHEET

## PAGE 2 WORD SCRAMBLE

SKUNK

RACCOON

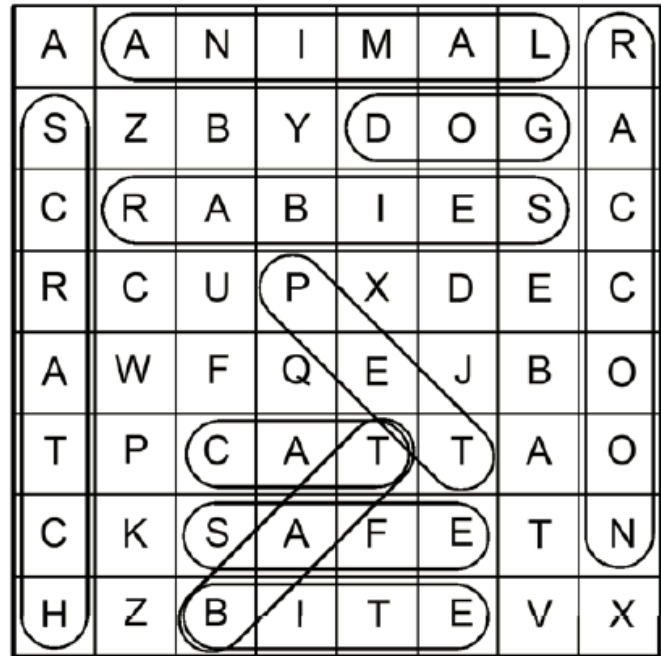
PEOPLE

DOG

BAT

CAT

## PAGE 8 WORD SEARCH



## PAGE 8 CRACK THE CODE

F	O	L	L	O	W	T	H	E					
●	▲	⊗	⊗	▲	★	♥	♦	↑					
T	H	R	E	E	T	I	M	E	S	R	U	L	E
♥	♦	☾	↑	↑	♥	●	☛	↑	■	☾	■	⊗	↑

# A Message to Parents on Rabies

## What is rabies?

- Rabies is a viral disease that affects the nervous system of mammals, including humans.
- Any mammal, including humans, can become infected with rabies. Animals and people can get rabies when they come into contact with the saliva of, or are bitten by, an infected animal.
- Once it enters the body, the rabies virus travels along the nerves to the spinal cord and then to the brain, where it multiplies and produces symptoms. If the virus reaches the brain, it is fatal. Because of this, the rabies vaccine, known as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), must be given as soon as possible after exposure, before symptoms appear. PEP is safe and effective and typically given by your doctor in four shots over a two-week period.
- Rabies is present on all continents with the exception of Antarctica and more than 55,000 people die of rabies every year, mostly in Asia and Africa.

## Why is rabies a concern in Ontario?

- The raccoon strain of rabies has re-emerged in the Ontario wildlife population. Since December 2015, hundreds of raccoons and skunks in Ontario have tested positive for rabies.
- For up-to-date information about cases of rabies in Ontario, visit [wdgpublichealth.ca/rabies](http://wdgpublichealth.ca/rabies).

## Can you tell if an animal has rabies?

- You can't tell if an animal has rabies just by looking at it. The rabies virus may be present in the saliva of an infected animal for a number of days before the onset of symptoms.
- When symptoms do develop, there are two forms of rabies:
  - **Dumb rabies:** Animals may appear quieter than normal and retreat to isolated places; a wild animal might move slowly, act tame and lose its fear of humans; it may show signs of paralysis including a drooping head or paralyzed hind limbs.
  - **Furious rabies:** Animals may show extreme excitement and aggression; may gnaw and bite at their own limbs; and, attack stationary things or other animals.

## How do you get rabies?

- The only way dogs, cats, raccoons, bats, and other animals can give **you** rabies is if you are bitten or scratched by one that has rabies, or if you have been in direct contact with the saliva of an infected animal.

# A Message to Parents on Rabies (Continued)

## What to do if an animal bites or scratches you?

- Immediately wash the area thoroughly with soap and water. Washing greatly reduces the chance of infection.
- Call your family doctor or visit the nearest hospital emergency department.
- Report the bite or scratch to Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health. Public Health will:
  - Help you determine your risk of exposure to rabies. If exposure is suspected, Public Health will deliver the rabies vaccine to your doctor's office.
  - Arrange for the cat or dog who bite the person to be confined at home for 10 days to make sure it doesn't have rabies.
- Try to get the animal owner information, if possible.

## How can you prevent rabies?

- Vaccinate your pet.
- Don't let your pet roam free, especially at night.
- Feed your pets indoors. This discourages unwanted visitors.
- Keep away from wild animals including raccoons, skunks, foxes and bats.
- Teach your children to stay away from wild animals and unfamiliar pets – even if they look friendly.
- Never touch a bat with bare skin.

## For more information contact:

### Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

Phone: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4753

Email: [info@wdgpublichealth.ca](mailto:info@wdgpublichealth.ca)

[www.wdgpublichealth.ca/rabies](http://www.wdgpublichealth.ca/rabies)



## Additional Resources

### World Rabies Day

[www.worldrabiesday.org](http://www.worldrabiesday.org)

**Center for Disease Prevention and Control Rabies Resources for Children** [www.cdc.gov/rabiesandkids](http://www.cdc.gov/rabiesandkids)



This resource was adapted with permission from Hamilton Public Health Services. Some information was obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/rabiesandkids/>