

# Animal and Insect Contact after a Flood



## **Pets:**

Protect your pets. Leash your pets or keep them in a fenced yard when they go outside to minimize contact with other animals that might be loose.

Wild animals, snakes and even downed power lines are other potential hazards.

The behavior of your pets may change after an emergency. Normally quiet and friendly pets may become aggressive or defensive. Watch animals closely.

## **Wild Animals:**

Wild animals can be forced from their natural habitats by flooding, and many pets and livestock may also be displaced. Avoid these animals. If bitten seek immediate medical attention and contact your local health department.

Rats may be a problem during and after a flood. Secure all food supplies, throw out any food animals might have touched, and seal possible rodent entrances.

## **Insects:**

An increase in mosquitoes or other insects can be expected after flooding. To reduce exposure to insects, wear protective clothing such as long sleeves and pants with legs tucked into boots. Protect exposed skin and clothing with insect repellent and follow the instructions on the label. Mosquitoes can be avoided by remaining indoors when they are most active, generally dusk and dawn.

**For more information, contact your local health department.**

**Contact information available at:**

<http://health.state.tn.us/localdepartments.htm>

