



What Are RVS Species?

- In Rhode Island, **bats**, **gray foxes**, **red foxes**, **raccoons**, **skunks**, and **woodchucks** (also known as **groundhogs**) have been designated as “Rabies Vector Species.”
- While all mammals, including humans, can be infected by the Rabies virus, RI considers the above species as those most likely to be carriers of rabies.
- If you come across an individual of any of these species and think help is needed, **please do not touch them with bare hands!**
- Any bare-handed contact may be considered an “exposure” by the RI Department of Health, and the animal would be required by law to be euthanized and submitted for rabies testing. Proper handling protocols must be adhered to. BEFORE you handle, please contact us at (401) 294-6363.
- The Rhode Island Department of Health Rabies Hotline is (401) 222-2577.

