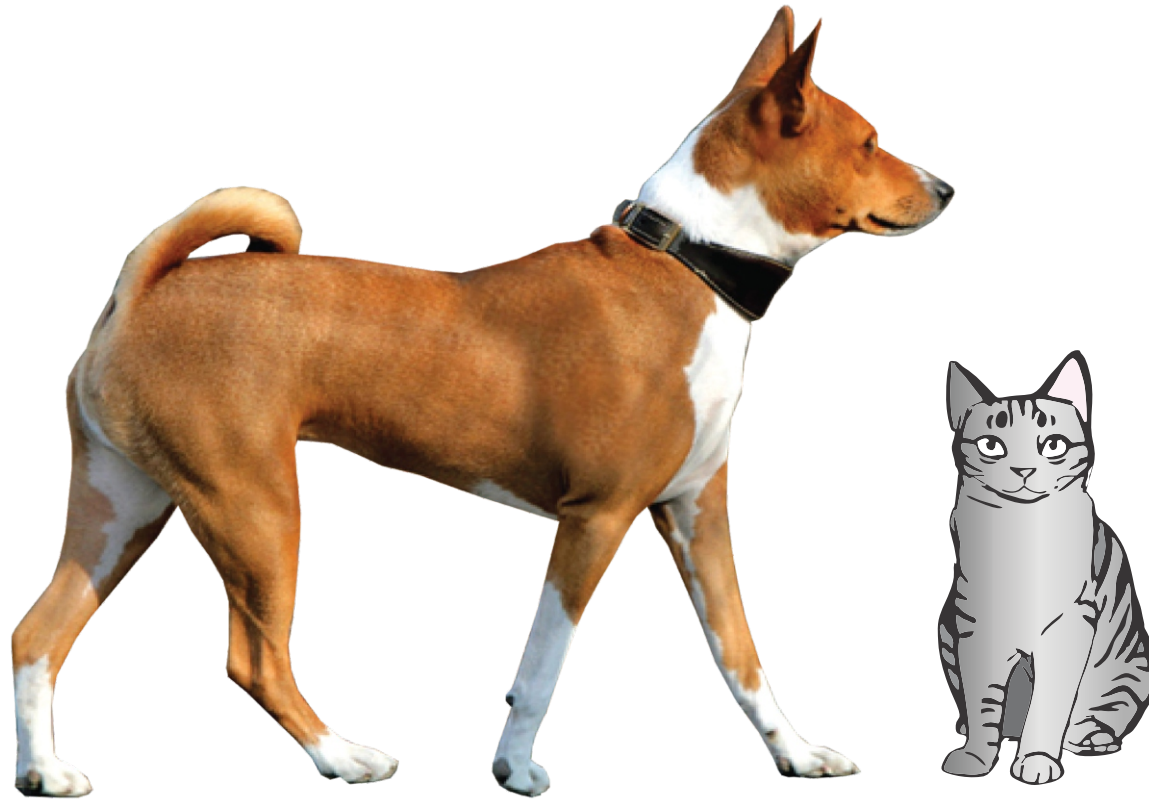


RABIES PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN BASIC SCHOOLS



Ghana Education
Service (GES)



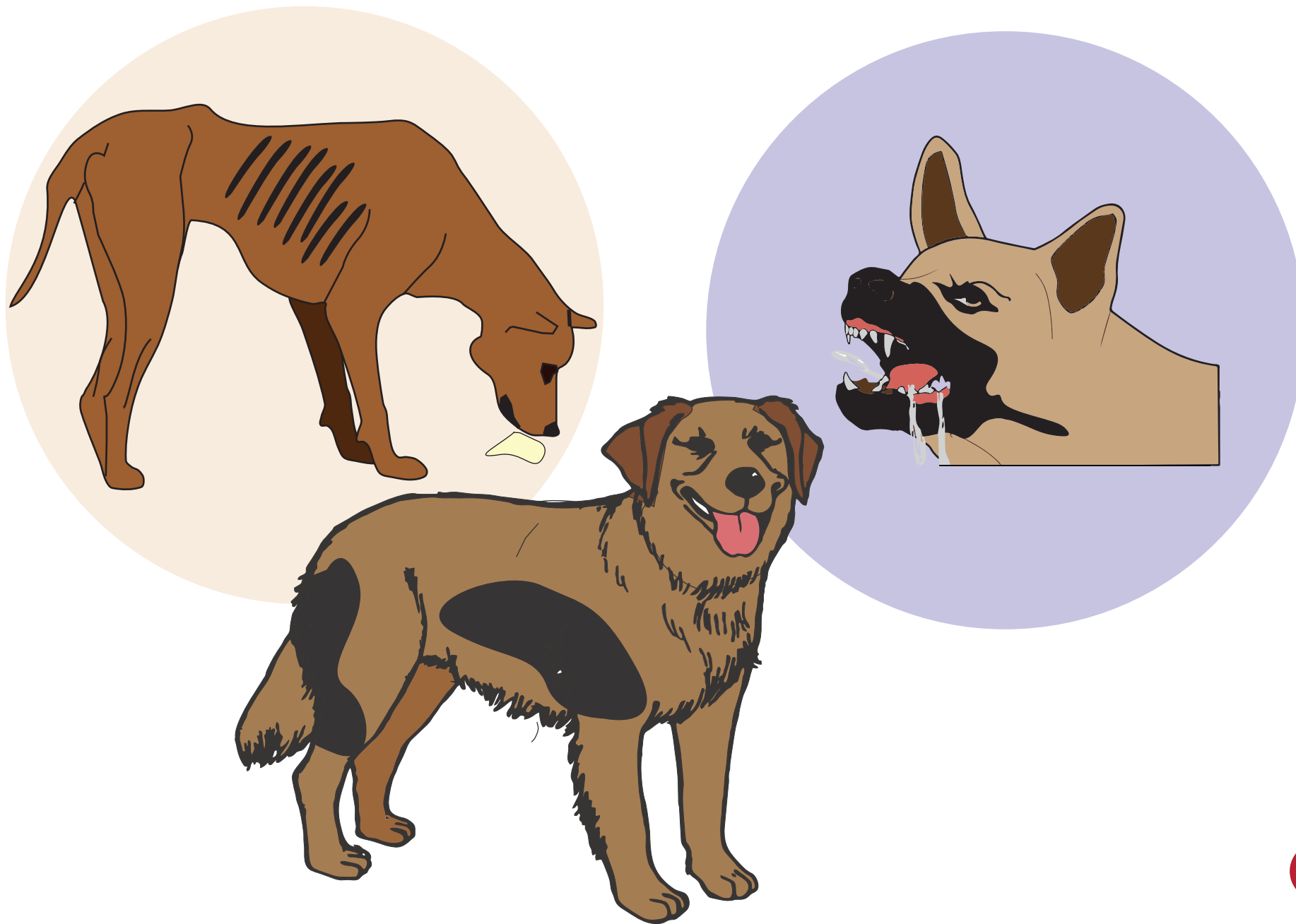
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WHAT IS RABIES?



WHAT IS RABIES?

- Rabies is a serious disease caused by a virus (the rabies virus) and it is most often transmitted through the bite or scratch of infected animals such as dogs or cats
- It can lead to severe illness and death among animals and humans
- The rabies virus infects the central nervous system and the brain of mammals which eventually leads to death
- Rabies can be prevented by vaccination

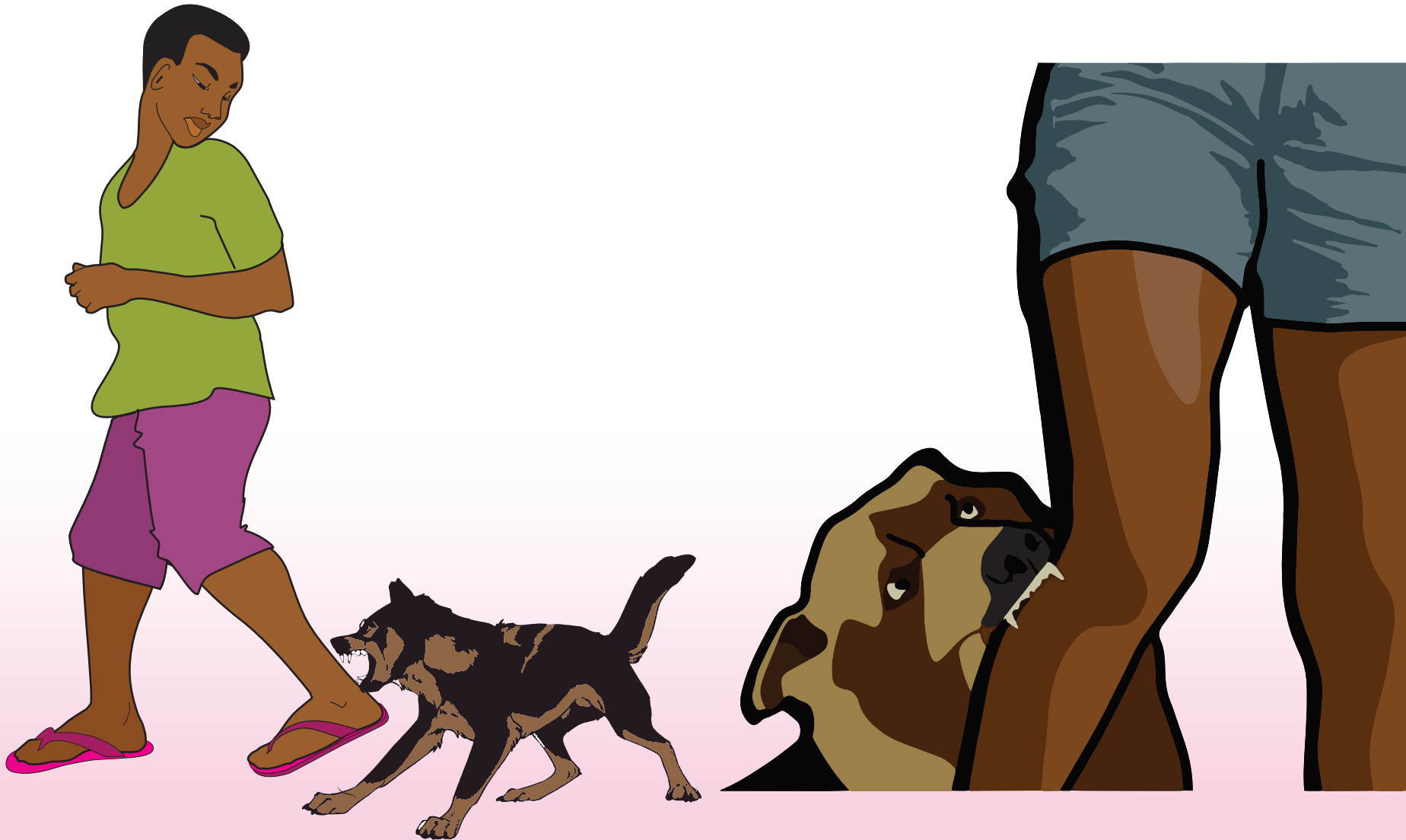
WHO IS AT RISK OF GETTING RABIES?



WHO IS AT RISK OF GETTING RABIES?

- Everyone is at risk of getting rabies
- Children are at a greater risk of getting rabies. This is because they:
 - Often play with dogs and other animals
 - Are more likely to feed dogs and cats
 - May get bitten or scratched by dogs and other animals
 - Are often bitten in the head or neck region
 - May not report dog bites or scratches
- Children must immediately report bites and scratches from dogs and cats to their parents, guardians and teachers for prompt and appropriate medical care.
- This will reduce the spread of the virus to the brain causing rabies disease which can lead to death

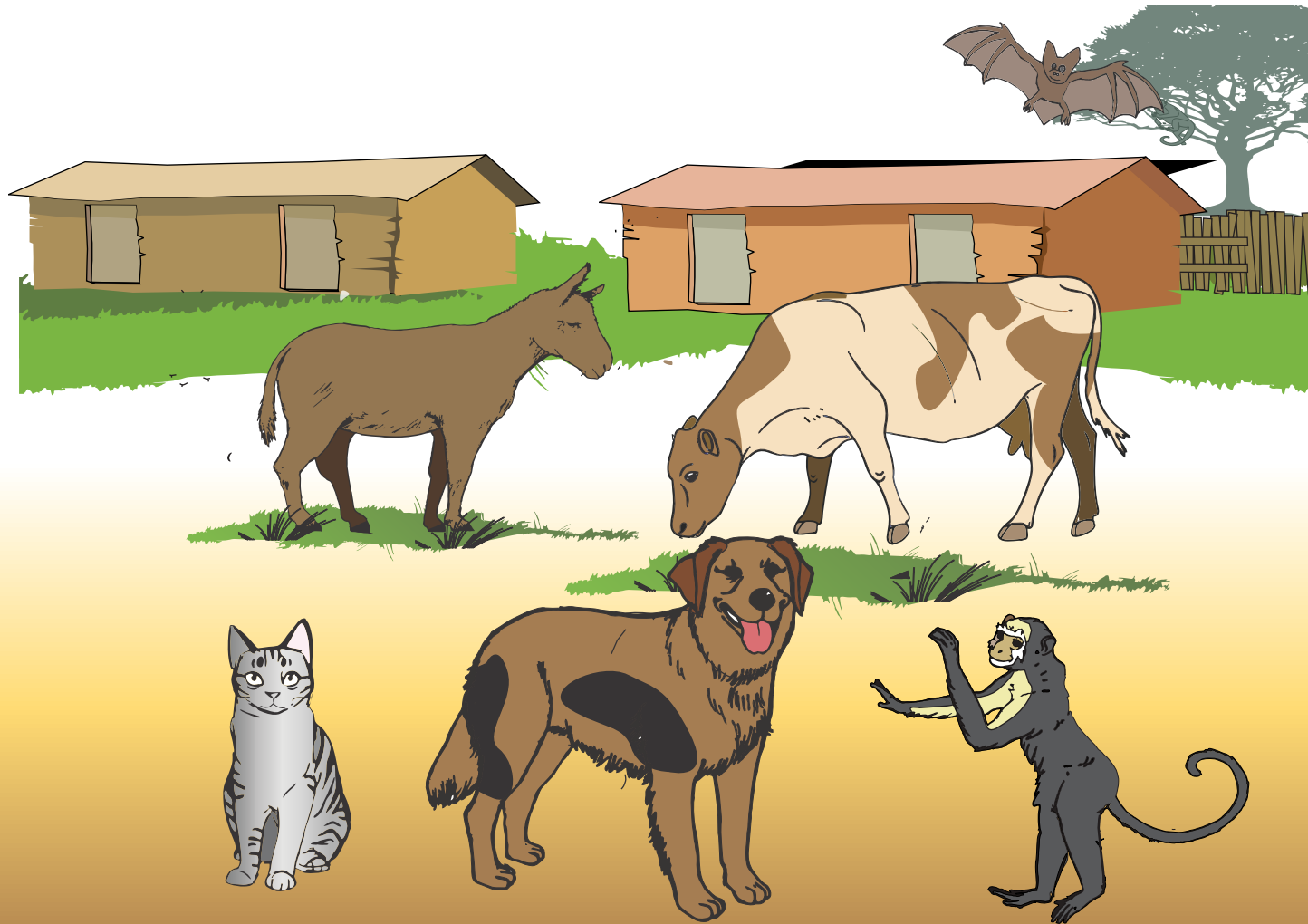
HOW IS RABIES SPREAD?



HOW IS RABIES SPREAD?

- The rabies virus is spread from the saliva of infected warm-blooded animals such as dogs and cats
- This occurs when a person or animal is bitten or scratched by a rabid animal
- The rabies virus enters a break in the skin (like a wound or cut) and infects the central nervous system of the animal or person, ultimately causing rabies disease in the brain which can lead to death.
- Rabies can also enter a person's body through the mouth, eyes, or nose when an animal with rabies licks a person's face or skin
- Dogs with rabies may act in deferent ways, so it may be difficult to tell if a dog has rabies without the help of a Veterinary Officer
- That is why it is very important to avoid any dog or cat that is acting strangely

WHICH ANIMALS CAN SPREAD RABIES?



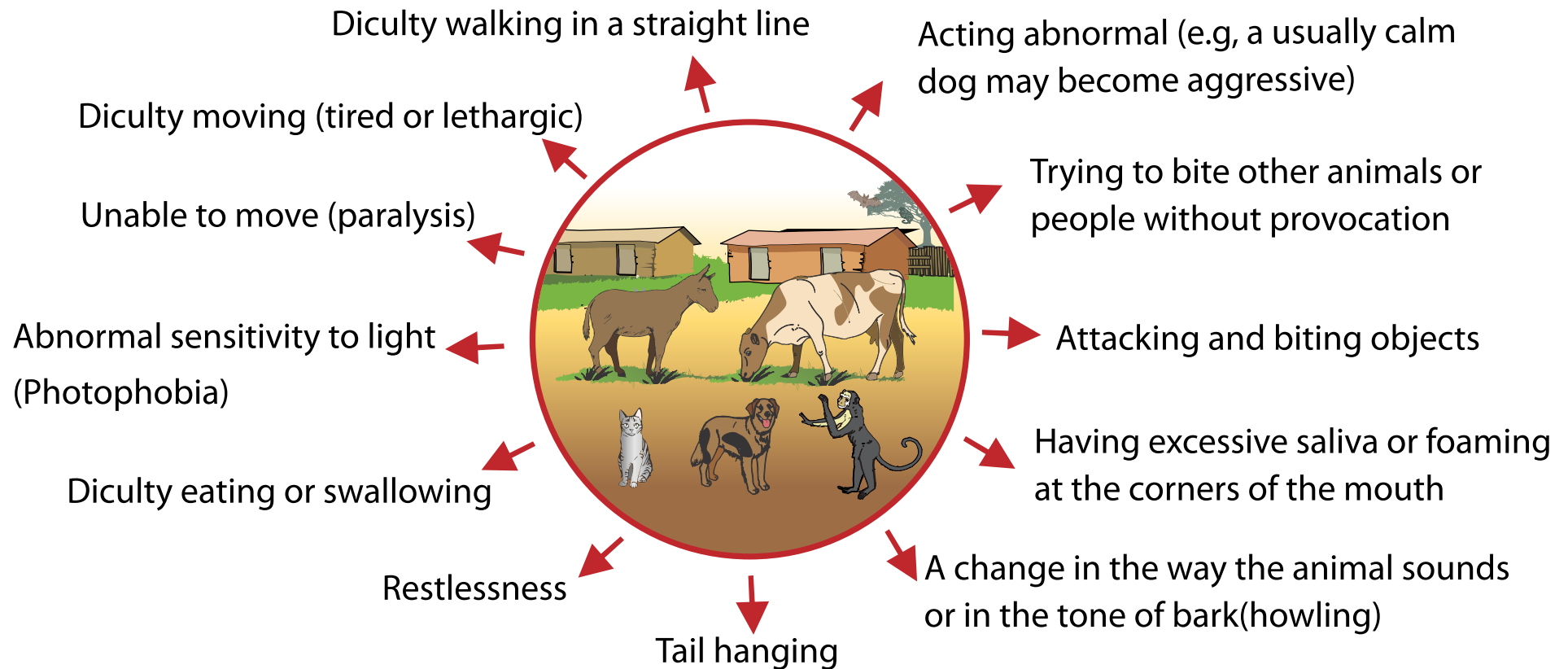
WHICH ANIMALS CAN SPREAD RABIES?

- All mammals or any animal that has hair can get and spread the rabies virus
- These include dogs, cats, monkeys, donkeys, cows, and bats
- They may look either sick or normal but can still spread rabies
- In Ghana, almost everyone infected with rabies gets it from the bite or scratch of an infected dog

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF RABIES IN ANIMALS?



WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF RABIES IN ANIMALS?

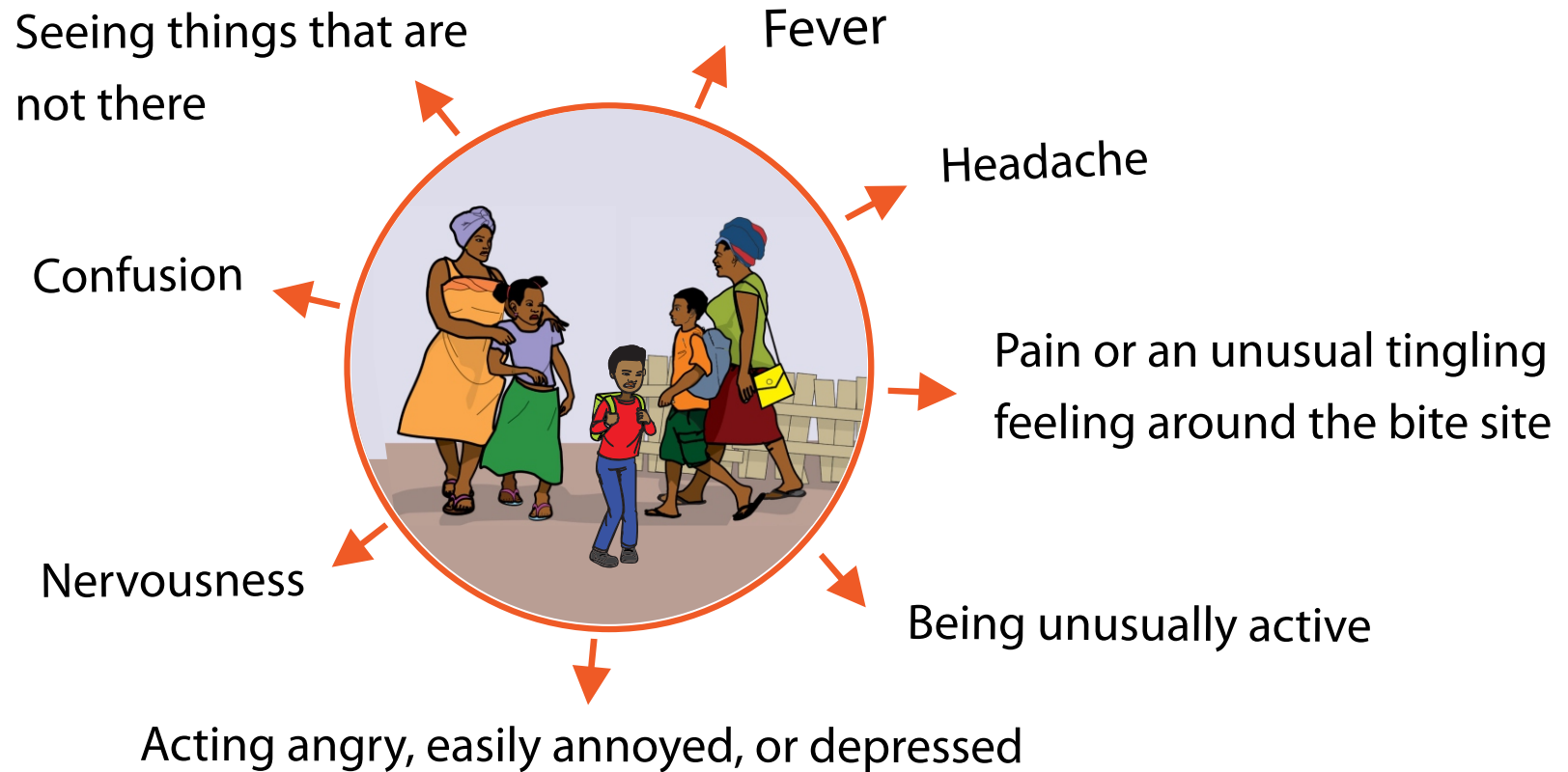


When a dog or any other animal is infected with the rabies virus, it may take several months before the onset of the signs and symptoms. Once an animal begins to show the signs and symptoms of rabies, it will die within one to ten days

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF RABIES IN HUMANS?



WHAT ARE THE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF RABIES IN HUMANS?



Once the signs and symptoms of rabies begin to show, the person will die within a few days

CAN RABIES BE PREVENTED?



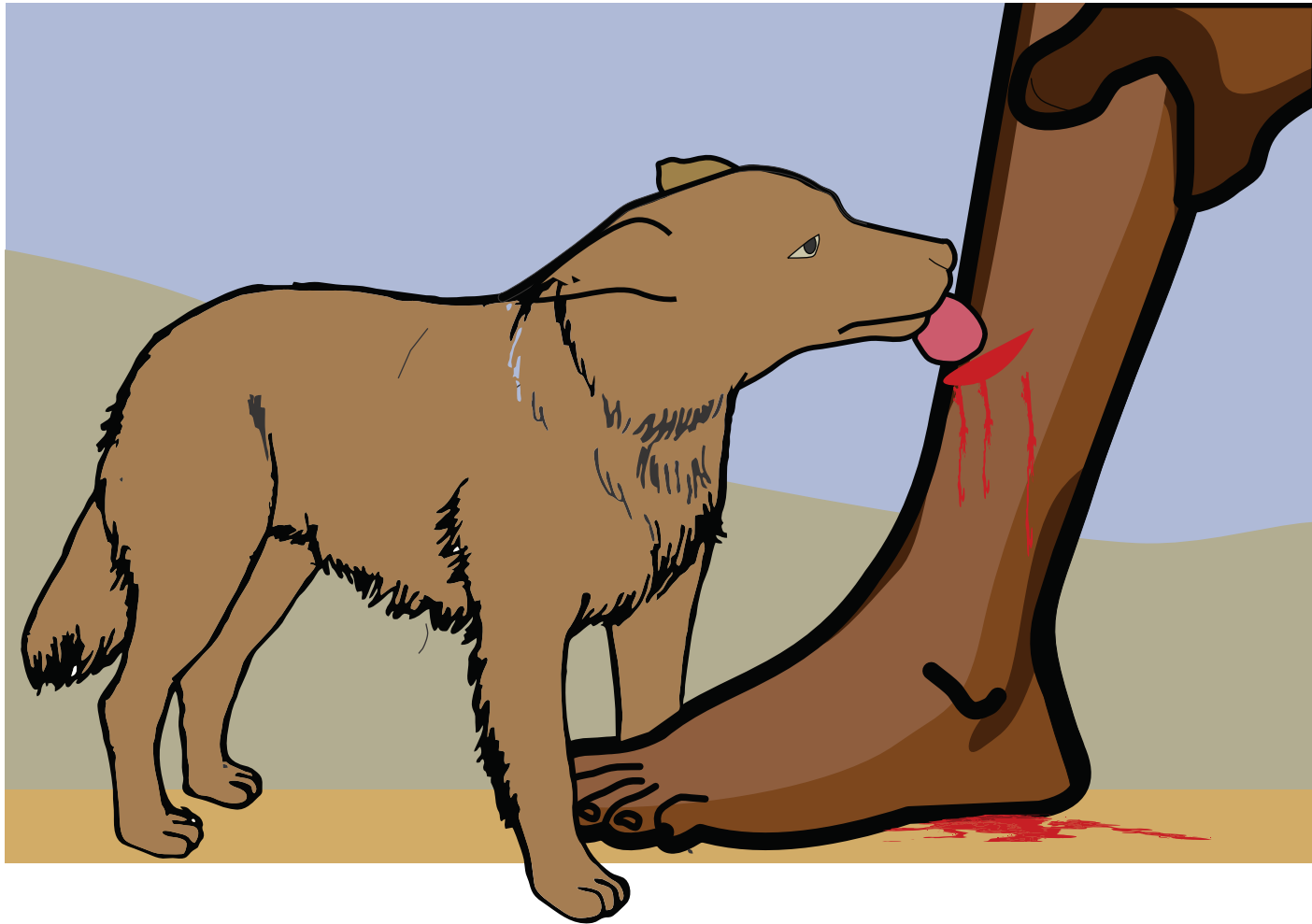
CAN RABIES BE PREVENTED?

- Yes, by avoiding the bite or scratch of a dog, a cat, or any other animal

NO BITE! NO SCRATCH! NO LICK! - NO RABIES

- Vaccinate your pets such as dogs or cats every year to prevent rabies
- Persons bitten or scratched by a rabid animal must immediately be given the full treatment of the vaccine (5 doses over a period of 21 days)
- This will prevent them from developing signs and symptoms of rabies and will save their lives

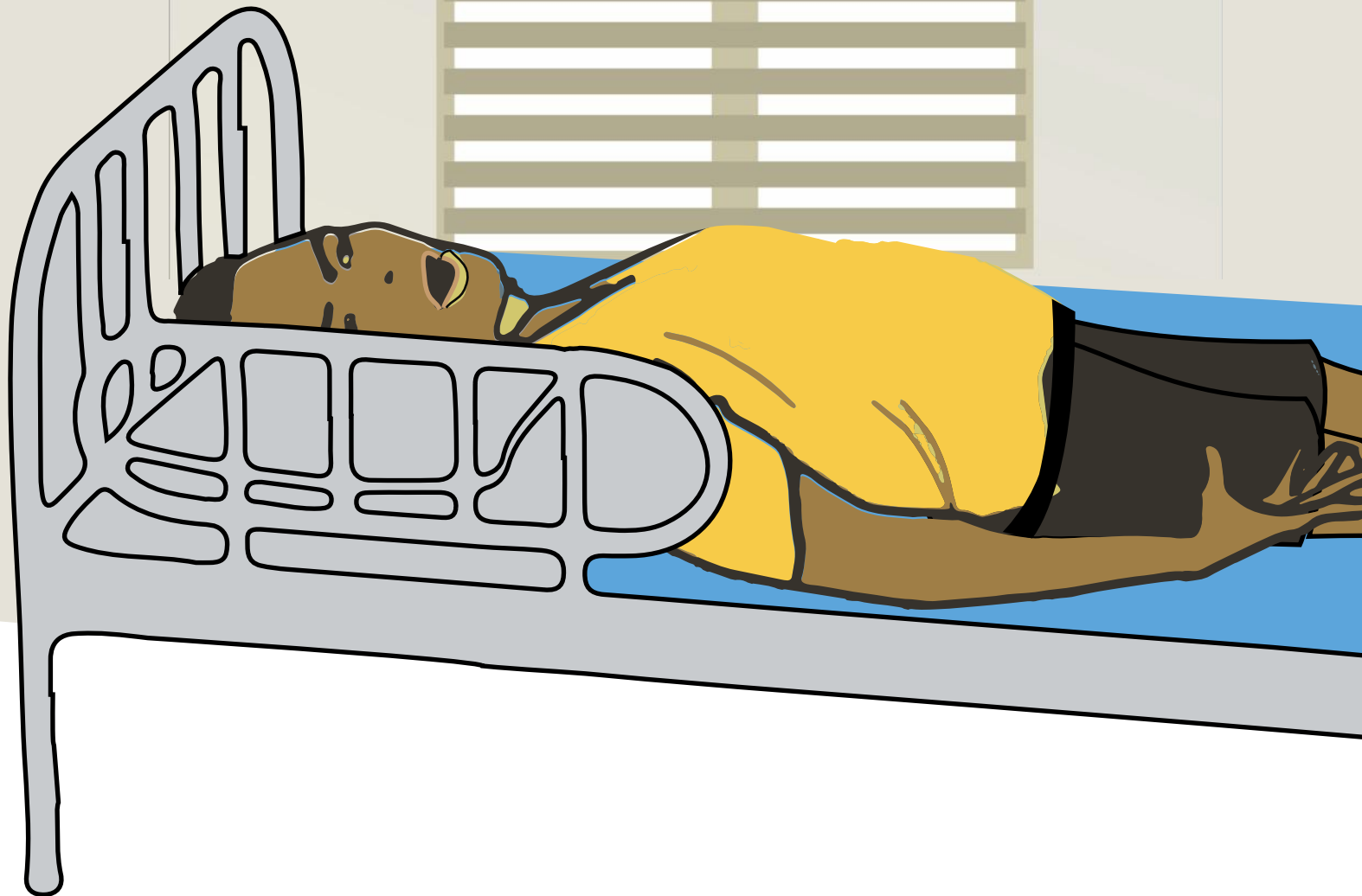
SHOULD YOU ALLOW YOUR DOG TO LICK YOUR OPEN SORE OR WOUND?



SHOULD YOU ALLOW YOUR DOG TO LICK YOUR OPEN SORE OR WOUND?

- No! Never allow your dog to lick your open sore or wound
- If the dog is rabid, it can transmit the virus to you
- Stop this practice

CAN RABIES BE TREATED?



CAN RABIES BE TREATED?

No!

- There is no treatment for rabies once signs and symptoms begin to show
- A person with rabies will die within a few days, after showing the signs and symptoms of the disease
- That is why it is important to go to the nearest health facility immediately after a bite or scratch for appropriate treatment and advice

WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN BITTEN OR SCRATCHED BY A DOG OR CAT?



WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN BITTEN OR SCRATCHED BY A DOG OR CAT?

When bitten or scratched by a dog or a cat, immediately wash the part of the body bitten or scratched with soap under running water continuously for 15 minutes or more

- Thoroughly washing and cleaning the wound with soap will:
 - Remove dirt, saliva and reduce the viral load
 - Flush out/remove any bacteria or germ or pathogen
 - Reduce the risk of infection since dog bites can introduce bacteria into the skin
 - Promote healing as it ensures a clean environment for tissue repair
 - Prepare for further care and set a good foundation for any additional medical treatment, such as applying antiseptics

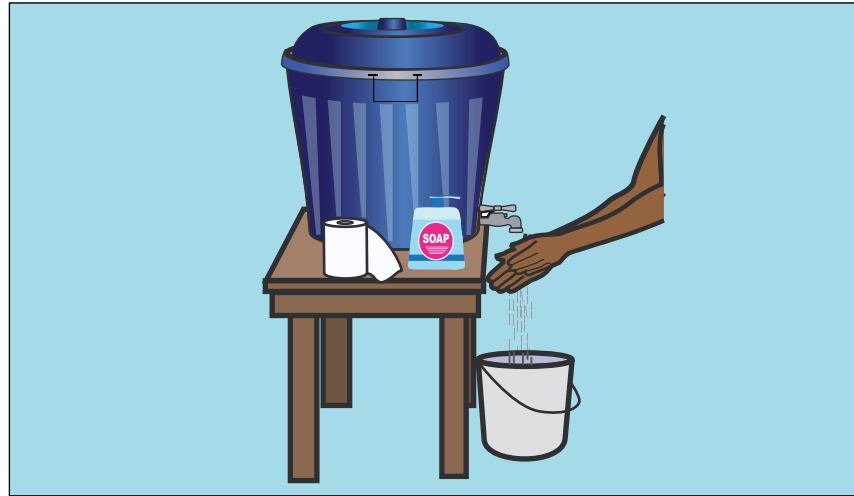
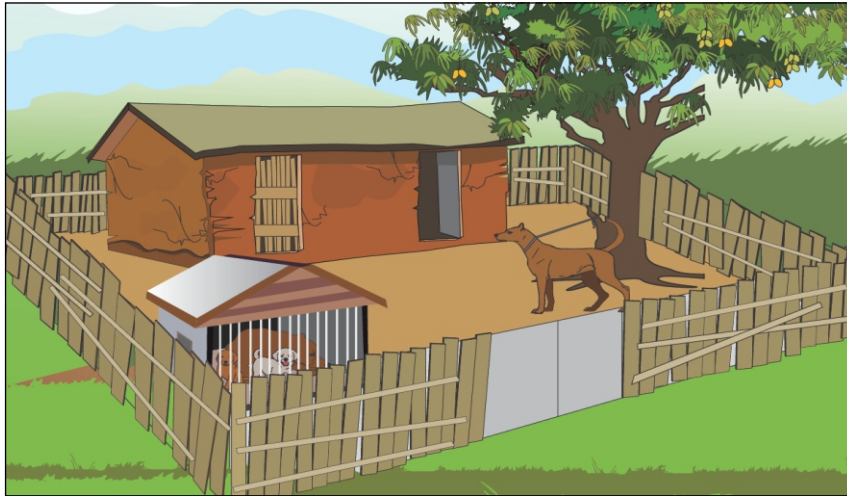
WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN BITTEN OR SCRATCHED BY A DOG OR CAT?



WHAT CAN YOU DO WHEN BITTEN OR SCRATCHED BY A DOG OR CAT?

- After washing, **go immediately** to the nearest health facility, or contact your Community Health Nurse for advice and treatment
 - The health facility may vaccinate you to protect you from developing rabies through the prompt administration of post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP)
- Report the dog bite/scratch case also to the nearest veterinary office for the animal to be kept away from other animals and people for 10 days while it is observed for signs and symptoms of rabies

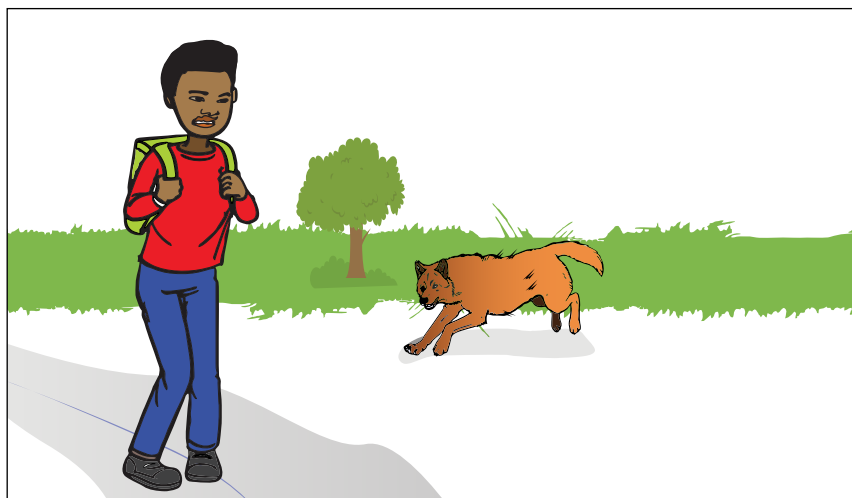
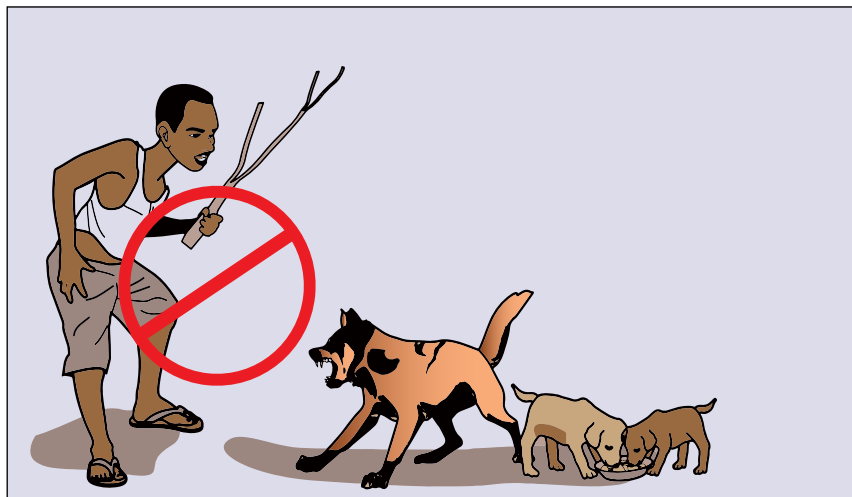
HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR ANIMALS FROM RABIES?



HOW CAN YOU PROTECT YOURSELF, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR ANIMALS FROM RABIES?

- Vaccinate your dogs against rabies every year
- The veterinary officer will give you a rabies vaccination certificate after vaccination
- Keep your dogs in the yard or in an enclosed area
- Dogs that roam freely are more likely to meet rabid dogs and other animals and can spread the disease to other dogs/animals in your family or in your community
Feed your dogs with healthy food and clean water regularly to avoid having them roam for food
- Take your dogs for regular veterinary visits when they are sick or hurt, and also for routine check-up
- Do not allow any animal to lick your face or any breaks in the skin such as cuts, scratches, or sores
- Rabies is spread through the saliva of an infected animal, and the signs of the disease are not always easy to see
- Always wash your hands and arms with soap under running water immediately after any contact with an animal, even if it looks healthy

WHAT CAN WE DO TO PREVENT DOG BITE OR SCRATCH?



WHAT CAN WE DO TO PREVENT DOG BITE?

- Do not disturb dogs especially when they are sleeping, eating or with their young ones
- Stay still and calm when a dog approaches you
- Do not play, touch, or come close to stray dogs and animals
- Stay away from any dog that is acting strangely or looks sick
- Stay away from dogs when they appear angry or scared.
- Be careful when passing by or entering a place where a dog lives
 - Many people keep dogs to protect themselves and their homes
 - Taking your time when passing or entering an area where a dog lives, can help a dog know you are not a threat

WHAT SHOULD A TEACHER DO WHEN A CHILD COMES WITH A DOG BITE OR SCRATCH?



WHAT SHOULD A TEACHER DO WHEN A CHILD COMES WITH A DOG BITE OR SCRATCH?

- Immediately guide the child to wash the wounds immediately with soap under running water continuously for 15 minutes or more
- Go with the child to the nearest health facility for assessment and treatment
- Inform the parent or guardian of the child **and the veterinary office** about the dog bite or scratch and the actions taken
- Intensify education on the tips to prevention of dog bite and living safely with animals

LIVE AND WORK SAFELY WITH YOUR HOUSEHOLD ANIMALS





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