

Rabies Awareness & Prevention Poster Contest
KINDERGARTEN – 8th GRADE
Instructions for Teachers

1. Thank you for involving your students in our poster contest! Students should design the posters to emphasize ways to prevent rabies exposures and infections. Please take a little time to discuss the information provided in the student handout. Stress the importance of rabies vaccinations for dogs, cats, and ferrets (and livestock in frequent contact with people). Remind your students not to touch wild or unfamiliar domestic animals.
2. Schools and private residences are the most common locations for exposure to rabid bats in Texas. Please remind students that bats are an important part of our ecosystem and that most bats are not rabid. However, the bats students are most likely to come into contact with have a fairly high probability of being infected with rabies. Remind students that they need to tell an adult immediately any time they see a bat out of its natural habitat (on the ground, flying around the house, etc).
3. More information on rabies can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention “Rabies and Kids” webpage at www.cdc.gov/rabiesandkids/ and the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) rabies webpage at www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/disease/rabies/. For additional information about bats, visit the Bat Conservation International webpage at www.batcon.org/.
4. Texas students in kindergarten through 8th grade are eligible to participate.
5. **Posters must be on unlined paper and be at least 8½” by 11” and may NOT exceed 11” by 17” (if 11X17, artwork MUST be at least an inch from the edge). Poster content and drawings must be original. Poster submissions should be eye-catching and informative, yet text should be minimal and easily readable. Posters must say something about RABIES!**
6. An entry *form (see below) must be affixed to the back of each poster.
7. Submit posters to Texas DSHS, Zoonosis Control Branch (ZCB), MC-1956, PO Box 149347, Austin, TX 78714-9347. *Posters accepted any time prior to, but no later than, the **April 7, 2023** deadline.*
8. One Kindergarten winner will receive several small gifts. There will be a first, second, and third place prize for the other age groups. **Prizes have not been selected yet.** These are the prizes awarded last year: *Grades 1-2: 1st – rock tumbler & book, 2nd – Vtech Smartwatch, 3rd – Visa Gift Card; Grades 3-5: 1st – Fjällräven backpack & binoculars, 2nd – art supplies set, 3rd – Visa Gift Card; Grades 6-8: 1st – GoPro bundle, 2nd – Apple AirPods, 3rd – Visa Gift Card.* In addition to individual prizes, the classes of the 1st place winners in grades 1-2, 3-5, and 6-8 will be provided \$75 for a class party! Prizes will be provided by the **Zach Jones Memorial Fund** (www.zachjonesmemorial.com/).
9. The winning posters will be publicized on the DSHS website. All posters become the property of the Texas Department of State Health Services. Artwork from top-ranking posters may be used for future state sponsored educational materials.

***Please tape a completed copy of this entry form to the back of each poster.**
In addition, please write student’s name and grade on the back of each poster.

Student’s Name: _____ Age: _____ Grade: _____

Teacher’s Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Principal’s Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

School Name: _____

Address: _____ City/County: _____ Zip Code: _____

All entries must be received by the Texas DSHS, Zoonosis Control Branch, MC-1956,

PO Box 149347, Austin, TX 78714-9347 by **April 7, 2023.**