

RABIES PROTOCOL

MANAGEMENT OF DOGS & CATS EXPOSED TO WILDLIFE (Raccoon, skunk, fox, bat, woodchuck or any carnivorous wild animal)

Exposure Category	If Dog or Cat is Currently or Not Currently Vaccinated	If dog or cat is Unvaccinated
Category 1 Direct contact with or visible bite from a confirmed rabid animal (includes eating viscera)	1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Booster Immediately 3. Strict Confinement for 45 days	1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Euthanize, or, if owner unwilling: a. Vaccinate immediately b. Isolate for 3 months followed by 1 month Strict Confinement
Category 2 Direct contact with or visible bite from a suspect rabid animal which is unavailable for testing (includes eating viscera)	1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Booster Immediately 3. Strict Confinement for 45 days	1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Euthanize, or, if owner unwilling: a. Vaccinate immediately b. Strict Confinement for 4 months
Category 3 Wound of unknown origin suspected to be caused by another animal (e.g. cat abscesses)	1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Booster Immediately 3. Strict Confinement for 45 days	1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Euthanize, or, if owner unwilling: a. Vaccinate immediately b. Strict Confinement for 4 months
Category 4 Exposure by proximity seen near or in close proximity to a confirmed rabid animal (no contact or wounds)	1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Booster Immediately 3. Strict Confinement for 45 days	1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector 2. Vaccinate immediately 3. Strict Confinement for 4 months

- Always wear gloves when handling saliva-contaminated wounds or fur.
- Always advise owner of rabies risk.
- Veterinarians must inform the local animal inspector of any potential rabies contact cases seen at their offices.

1. “Not Currently Vaccinated” means there is proof that the animal has received a rabies vaccination at some point prior, but the duration that vaccine was good for has been exceeded.
2. “Unvaccinated” means the animal has never received a rabies vaccine, or the first shot was administered less than 28 days ago.
3. Dog or cat should be examined by a veterinarian to assure there are no wounds

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