

# RABIES MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS EXPOSED TO WILDLIFE<sup>1</sup>

(Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets)

Exposure Category	Vaccinated	Not Vaccinated
<b>DIRECT CONTACT OR VISIBLE BITE</b> from <u>confirmed</u> rabid animal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Veterinarian boosts pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure<sup>2</sup></li> <li>2. Veterinarian notifies local or state animal control officer (ACO)</li> <li>3. ACO orders strict confinement by pet owner for 45 days</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Veterinarian euthanizes pet</li> <li>2. If owner unwilling: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Veterinarian vaccinates pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure</li> <li>b. Veterinarian notifies local or state animal control officer (ACO)</li> <li>c. ACO orders quarantine for 6 months<sup>3</sup></li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>DIRECT CONTACT OR VISIBLE BITE</b> from <u>suspect</u> rabid animal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Veterinarian boosts pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure<sup>2</sup></li> <li>2. Veterinarian notifies local or state ACO</li> <li>3. ACO orders strict confinement by pet owner for 45 days</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Veterinarian euthanizes pet</li> <li>2. If owner unwilling: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Veterinarian vaccinates pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure</li> <li>b. Veterinarian notifies local or state ACO</li> <li>c. ACO orders quarantine for 3 months and then strict confinement by pet owner for 3 additional months<sup>3</sup></li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>WOUND OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN</b> (for example a cat abscess)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Veterinarian boosts pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure<sup>2</sup></li> <li>2. Veterinarian advises close observation by pet owner for 45 days</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Veterinarian vaccinates pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure</li> <li>2. Veterinarian advises pet owner to comply with the provisions of strict confinement for 6 months<sup>3</sup> (approval of enclosure by the animal control officer may not be necessary)</li> </ol>
<b>EXPOSURE BY PROXIMITY</b> (seen near or in same area as <u>confirmed</u> rabid animal – no known contact or wounds)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Veterinarian may consider booster for pet<sup>2</sup></li> <li>2. Veterinarian advises close observation by pet owner for 45 days</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Veterinarian vaccinates pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure</li> <li>2. Veterinarian advises close observation by pet owner for 6 months<sup>3</sup></li> </ol>

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this document, wildlife includes but is not limited to raccoons, skunks, fox, woodchucks, bats and other carnivores.

<sup>2</sup> If most recent rabies vaccination was administered within 1 month, it is not necessary to re-vaccinate.

<sup>3</sup> Quarantine, strict confinement or close observation period may be shortened for dogs and cats by the State Veterinarian, if pet is vaccinated within 96 hours of exposure.

✓ The State Veterinarian must be notified of any domestic animals suspected of having rabies.

✓ Always wear gloves when handling saliva contaminated wounds or fur.

## DEFINITIONS:

### Strict Confinement

- a) Animal may be kept at home in the house, garage or some other escape proof building or enclosure approved by the ACO.
- b) May be leash walked under immediate control of an adult within the confines of the premises only.
- c) Animal may not be allowed contact with other animals or humans other than the designated caretaker.
- d) Owner is informed of potential rabies and given copies of Rabies Advisory notice and strict confinement instructions.
- e) Animal is observed daily and owner is required to immediately notify the ACO or veterinarian of any unusual behavior or change in the health status of the animal.
- f) Owner is not allowed to sell, give away, kill or otherwise dispose of the animal during the confinement period without the permission of the State Veterinarian.
- g) In the event the animal escapes or dies the owner must immediately notify the ACO.

### Close Observation

- a) Animal may be kept at home.
- b) Owner informed of potential rabies and given copy of the Rabies Advisory notice.
- c) Owner required to immediately notify veterinarian or ACO of unusual behavior or change in health status of pet.

### Quarantine

- a) Animal to be confined off owner's premises in a state approved facility, i.e. dog pound, veterinary hospital or commercial kennel.
- b) Isolate animal from human and animal contact.