



VETERINARIAN GUIDANCE ALGORITHM

DOG OR CAT EXPOSED TO A POTENTIALLY RABID ANIMAL



Do you suspect an animal has rabies?

Yes

If the suspected rabid animal is unable to be tested, contact the ADS epi-on-call at (405) 271-4060 to discuss recommendations.

No

Are you able to send in the head/brain of the suspected rabid animal to the OSDH Public Health Lab for testing?

Yes

Contact the ADS epi-on-call at (405) 271-4060 to discuss recommendations.

No

Did the animal expose a dog or cat?

Yes

Has the dog or cat ever been vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian in its lifetime?

No

Submit the animal for rabies testing. Is the dog or cat currently vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian?

Yes

No

Yes

If the rabies result for the suspected rabid animal is positive and the dog or cat was exposed:

- 1 The dog or cat may be euthanized immediately either by a veterinarian or the local animal control officer; OR
- 2 Immediately (within 96 hours from the time of exposure) be given a USDA-licensed booster rabies vaccination and be placed in quarantine for 4 months under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

Does the owner or veterinarian have documentation showing the dog or cat was vaccinated for rabies by a licensed veterinarian in its lifetime?

No

Yes

If the rabies result is positive and the dog or cat was exposed:

- 1 Booster with USDA-licensed rabies vaccine. The vaccine must be administered by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.
- 2 The dog or cat should then be isolated by leashing or confinement under the owner's supervision, for a period of at least 45 days from the date of exposure to the rabid animal.

An ADS epidemiologist will work with the owner and veterinarian to complete the follow-up.

- 1 The dog or cat shall receive a rabies vaccine booster administered by or under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.
- 2 The dog or cat shall then be placed in home quarantine by leashing or confinement under the owner's supervision, for a period of at least 45 days from the date of exposure to the rabid animal.
- 3 A health assessment will need to be completed by a licensed veterinarian at the end of the 45-day quarantine.

The animal should not immediately receive a rabies vaccine. If the animal is given a vaccine prior to collecting serum, "Prospective Serologic Monitoring" (PSM) protocol is not an option and the animal will be treated as never having received a rabies vaccine.

If more than 96 hours will pass between the date of exposure and final rabies lab result, proceed by collecting 1-2 mL of serum from the dog or cat for possible PSM. Label the serum appropriately and keep refrigerated. After serum collection, administer USDA-licensed rabies vaccine.

If the rabies result is positive and the dog or cat was exposed:

- 1 The dog or cat may be euthanized immediately either by a veterinarian or the local animal control officer; OR
- 2 Immediately be given a booster rabies vaccination and be placed into quarantine for 4 months under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian; OR
- 3 Prior to administering a booster vaccination, the owner may work with the licensed veterinarian to conduct PSM. Please refer to the *Prospective Serologic Monitoring* document.