

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106
860-713-2506

RABIES ADVISORY NOTICE

Rabies is a fatal disease of warm blooded mammals caused by a virus, most frequently spread through a bite from an infected animal. Bites are the main route of transmission because a diseased animal has the rabies virus in its saliva, and frequently will bite other animals.

This notice is being given to you because your dog, cat, or ferret came into contact with a known or suspect rabid animal, has a bite from an unknown source, or has been seen near or in the same area as a known or suspect rabid animal. The vaccination status of your pet greatly influences the amount of risk an exposure poses to your pet. Your pet falls into one of the following categories:

A. UNVACCINATED FOR RABIES OR VACCINATION EXPIRED

(Check one)

___ **Direct Contact Or Bite From A Confirmed Rabid Animal**

Your pet has a high risk of developing rabies. For your protection, we strongly recommend that your pet be euthanized. The only other alternative is for you to allow your pet to be quarantined in a state approved facility for six months. The proper local and state officials will be notified that this exposure had occurred.

___ **Direct Contact Or Bite From A Suspect Rabid Animal**

Your pet has a high risk of developing rabies. For your protection, we strongly recommend that your pet be euthanized. The only other alternative is for you to allow your pet to be quarantined in a state approved facility for three months and then to strictly confine your pet at home in an escape proof enclosure approved by the local or state animal control officer for an additional three months. The proper local and state officials will be notified that this exposure had occurred.

___ **Wound of Unknown Origin**

Since we cannot be absolutely sure that the wound was not inflicted by a rabid animal, we advise you to strictly confine your pet at home in an escape proof enclosure for six months. Your pet should receive a vaccination for rabies immediately.

___ **Pet Seen In Or Near The Same Area As A Confirmed Rabid Animal**

We know that there are rabid animals in the vicinity and your pet may have come into contact with one without your knowledge. Your pet should immediately receive a vaccination for rabies. Be aware of the clinical signs of rabies and observe your pet closely over the next six months.

B. VACCINATION FOR RABIES CURRENT

(Check one)

- Direct Contact Or Bite From A Confirmed Or Suspect Rabid Animal**
Even highly effective vaccinations are not 100% effective. Your pet should receive a booster rabies vaccination immediately and be kept under strict confinement at home for 45 days in an escape proof enclosure approved by the local or state animal control officer. The proper local and state officials will be notified that this exposure has occurred.

- Wound Of Unknown Origin**
Be aware of the clinical signs of rabies and observe your pet closely over the next 45 days. Obtain a booster rabies vaccination for your pet.

- Pet Seen In Or Near The Same Area As A Confirmed Rabid Animal**
Your veterinarian will determine if there is a need for a booster rabies vaccination. Be aware of the clinical signs of rabies and observe your pet closely over the next 45 days.

CLINICAL SIGNS OF RABIES

Clinical signs of rabies in animals include fever, loss of appetite, excessive irritability, unusual vocalization, change in behavior, restlessness, jumping at noises, trouble walking, excess salivation, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, stupors or unprovoked aggression. Rabies usually begins subtly, with pet owners first noticing that their animal goes off its food and just "doesn't seem right". The animal may then become restless and irritable, have a "strange look in its eyes" and make funny sounding cries or barks. As the disease progresses, nervous system signs become more obvious with tremors appearing, difficult walking and swallowing, and even convulsions and paralysis developing. Affected animals may or may not try to bite or show other signs of aggression.

If your pet begins to show any of these signs; notify the local animal control officer and seek the care and advice of a veterinarian. Separate your animal from other animals and humans immediately.

Please contact your local animal control officer or the State Veterinarian if you have any questions about this notice.

- * Issued by: _____

- * Received by: _____

- * Date: _____