

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

(Dogs, Cats, And Ferrets)

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

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of this document, wildlife includes but is not limited to raccoon, fox, skunk, bat, woodchuck, opossum, and coyote.

<sup>2</sup> For more information on the roles and responsibilities of pet owners, ACOs and veterinarians, see the [Rabies Information Brochure](#) and / or the [Connecticut Rabies Manual](#).

<sup>3</sup> If most recent rabies vaccination was administered within 1 month, it is not necessary to re-vaccinate.

- ✓ The State Veterinarian must be notified of any domestic animals suspected of having rabies.
- ✓ Always wear gloves when handling saliva contaminated wounds or fur.

<p><b>DEFINITIONS:</b></p> <p><b><u>Strict Confinement</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal may be kept at home in the house, garage or some other escape proof building or enclosure approved by the ACO.</li> <li>May be leash walked under immediate control of an adult within the confines of the premises only.</li> <li>Animal may not be allowed contact with other animals or humans other than the designated caretaker.</li> <li>Owner is informed of potential rabies and given copies of Rabies Advisory notice and strict confinement instructions.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>In the event the animal escapes or dies the owner must immediately notify the ACO.</li> </ol>	<p><b><u>Close Observation</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal may be kept at home.</li> <li>Owner informed of potential rabies and given copy of the Rabies Advisory notice.</li> <li>Owner required to immediately notify veterinarian or ACO of unusual behavior or change in health status of pet.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Quarantine</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal to be confined off owner's premises in a state approved facility, i.e. dog pound, veterinary hospital or commercial kennel.</li> <li>Isolate animal from human and animal contact.</li> </ol>
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