## RABIES MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC ANIMALS EXPOSED TO WILDLIFE

(Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure Category</th>
<th>Vaccinated</th>
<th>Not Vaccinated</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| **DIRECT CONTACT OR VISIBLE BITE from confirmed rabid animal** | 1. Veterinarian boosters pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure<sup>2</sup>  
   2. Veterinarian notifies local or state animal control officer (ACO)  
   3. ACO orders strict confinement by pet owner for 45 days | 1. Veterinarian euthanizes pet  
   2. If owner unwilling:  
     a. Veterinarian vaccinates pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure  
     b. Veterinarian notifies local or state animal control officer (ACO)  
     c. ACO orders quarantine for 6 months<sup>3</sup> |
| **DIRECT CONTACT OR VISIBLE BITE from suspect rabid animal** | 1. Veterinarian boosters pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure<sup>2</sup>  
   2. Veterinarian notifies local or state ACO  
   3. ACO orders strict confinement by pet owner for 45 days | 1. Veterinarian euthanizes pet  
   2. If owner unwilling:  
     a. Veterinarian vaccinates pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure  
     b. Veterinarian notifies local or state ACO  
     c. ACO orders quarantine for 3 months and then strict confinement by pet owner for 3 additional months<sup>3</sup> |
| **WOUND OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN (for example a cat abscess)** | 1. Veterinarian boosters pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure<sup>2</sup>  
   2. Veterinarian advises close observation by pet owner for 45 days | 1. Veterinarian vaccinates pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure  
   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) |
| **EXPOSURE BY PROXIMITY** (seen near or in same area as confirmed rabid animal – no known contact or wounds) | 1. Veterinarian may consider booster for pet<sup>2</sup>  
   2. Veterinarian advises close observation by pet owner for 45 days | 1. Veterinarian vaccinates pet, preferably within 96 hours of exposure  
   2. Veterinarian advises close observation by pet owner for 6 months<sup>3</sup> |

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1 For the purposes of this document, wildlife includes but is not limited to raccoons, skunks, fox, woodchucks, bats and other carnivores.  
2 If most recent rabies vaccination was administered within 1 month, it is not necessary to re-vaccinate.  
3 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.

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