



Town of Fairfield

FAIRFIELD POLICE DEPARTMENT ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION

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Guidelines for when your domestic animal has had exposure to potentially rabid wildlife:

1. Rabies virus can be carried in saliva or brain tissue on your domestic animals fur. Gloves should be worn when handling your domestic animal, especially if it is within 2 hours of the contamination. Rabies virus should not be viable after 2 hours of leaving the host. Rabies is not an exact science & there are variables.
2. Contain your animal in an escape proof enclosure for at least **2 hours** and do not or let anybody else have contact with the domestic animal. Limit contact with humans & other domestic animals until test results can be obtained. If Animal Control is unable to obtain the potentially rabid wildlife please follow directions on the **Rabies Advisory Notice** that will be given to you.
3. If Animal Control is able to obtain the potentially rabid wildlife we will send it to the state for rabies testing & Animal Control should call you with the results in 2-3 days.
4. If you have had contact with your domestic animal, wash your hands with soap and water immediately.
5. To kill rabies virus on contaminated surfaces use a bleach solution of ½ cup bleach to 1 -gallon water.
6. Contact your veterinarian immediately for advice on medical treatment for your domestic animal.
7. Contact your physician for advice on medical treatment if you have had contact with your domestic animal.
8. Be sure to read and follow the **Rabies Advisory Notice** and **Rabies Prevention & You** fact sheets that have been given to you.
9. If you have further questions please contact us @ 254-4857 or CT State Animal Control @ 860-713-2506.

Rabies Prevention & You

Answers and Common Questions about Rabies

Q. What is rabies?

A. Rabies is a virus that attacks the brain and nervous system. The rabies virus lives in the saliva of infected animals. It is usually spread from animal to animal or from animal to human. If left untreated in humans, rabies is fatal.

Q. How is rabies spread?

A. Bites, scratches, and contact with infected saliva are considered to be the most common ways that rabies is spread (also called exposure to rabies). People can also be exposed to rabies in laboratories, or bat-infested caves by inhaling airborne rabies virus.

Q. What animals are most often infected with rabies?

A. In the United States, skunks, raccoons, foxes, coyotes, and bats are some of the most common wildlife carriers of rabies. However, humans have the greatest chance of being infected with the rabies virus through direct contact with unvaccinated cats, dogs, and bats?

Q. What are the symptoms of rabies?

A. The symptoms of rabies include loss of consciousness, fever, headache, anxiety, insomnia, hyper salivation (foaming at the mouth), and convulsions. Without medical attention, these symptoms appear within 20 to 60 days. Once a person begins to experience rabies symptoms, death usually follow.

Q. What should be done following exposure to rabies?

A. If you think you have been bitten or exposed to an animal (domestic or wild) that you suspect has rabies, don't wait! Go to the nearest hospital emergency room or medical professional as soon as possible. Even though an animal may seem normal, it can still carry the rabies virus. Following exposure, the only way to avoid rabies' deadly symptoms is to get medical attention **IMMEDIATELY!!!**

Q. How can rabies be prevented?

A. There are 2 forms of rabies prevention:

- **Pre-exposure vaccination** - given to help protect people who might come into future contact with rabies due to high-risk jobs or travel plans.
- **Post-exposure treatment** - given to anyone who has been actually exposed to the rabies virus, even if he or she has already received pre-exposure vaccination.

Q. Who Needs Protection And when?

A.

Veterinarians	Routine pre-exposure vaccinations
Animal Control Officers	Routine pre-exposure vaccinations
Wildlife Handlers	Routine pre-exposure vaccinations
Anyone who works in animal related industries	Routine pre-exposure vaccinations
Animal research laboratory workers	Post-exposure vaccination before symptoms appear
Anyone who travels to countries where rabies is widespread	Pre-exposure vaccination before departure
General Public	Post-exposure treatment before rabies symptoms appear . even if the animal is merely suspected of having rabies; consult a medical professional immediately.

* **IMPORTANT:**

Pre-exposure vaccination does not eliminate the need for prompt post exposure treatment following exposure to rabies.

As with any vaccine,
vaccination with a rabies vaccine
and rabies immune globulin
May not protect 100% of susceptible individuals

Q. What are the pre-exposure and post-exposure prevention schedules?

A. Pre-exposure vaccination for those who **HAVE NOT** been exposed to rabies but are at risk due their occupation or travel plans

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Treatment</u>
Day 0	Rabies Vaccine
Day 7	Rabies Vaccine
Day 21 or 28	Rabies Vaccine

Post – exposure treatment for those who have been exposed and **HAVE NOT HAD** pre-exposure vaccinations

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Treatment</u>
Day 0	Rabies immune globulin + Rabies
Day 3	Rabies Vaccine
Day 7	Rabies Vaccine
Day 14	Rabies Vaccine
Day 28	Rabies Vaccine

Post exposure treatment for those who have been exposed to rabies and **HAVE HAD** pre-exposure vaccinations

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Treatment</u>
Day 0	Rabies vaccine only
Day 3	Rabies vaccine only

Q. Does the rabies vaccine have side effects?

A. There are risks associated with all vaccines. Some people experience local reactions, including pain, redness, swelling, and itching at the injection site; headache, nausea, abdominal pain, muscle aches, and dizziness may also occur. If you have questions or concerns about the side effects associated with the rabies vaccine, you should talk to your doctor or health care professional.

Q. Want to get more information about rabies?

A. To learn more about rabies and rabies prevention, ask your doctor or health care professional. You can also visit the following web sites:

www.rabies.com

www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/introduction/intro.htm

www.travelvacs.us

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 or cat 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 get 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 6 months. The proper local and state officials {will be notified that this exposure has 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 3 months and then to strictly confine your pet at he in an escape proof enclosure approved by the local director of health or the local animal control officer or the state canine control officer for an addit4onal 3 months. The proper local and state officials will be notified that this exposure has 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 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 symptoms of rabies and observe your pet closely over the next **6** months.

B. CURRENT VACCINATION FOR RABIES

(Check One

- DIRECT CONTACT OR BITE FROM A CONFIRMED RABID ANIMAL**
Even highly effective vaccinations are not **100%** effective. Your pet should receive a rabies booster vaccination immediately and be kept under strict confinement at home for 45 days, in an escape proof enclosure approved by the local director of health, the local Animal Control Officer, or the 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 symptoms of rabies and observe your pet closely over the next 45 days. Obtain a booster rabies vaccination for your

- PET SEEN IN 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 symptoms of rabies and observe your pet closely over the next 45 days.

SYMPTOMS OF RABIES

Symptoms of rabies include fever, loss of appetite, excessive irritability, unusual vocalization, and 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 illness 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 symptoms; 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 the rabies protocol.

Definitions

1) Close Observation

- A) Animal may be kept at home.
- B) Owner informed of potential rabies.
- C) Owner required to notify their veterinarian of unusual behavior or change in health status of pet.

2) Strict Confinement

- A) Animal may be kept at home in the house, garage or some other escape proof building or enclosure approved by the local director of health and/or the local animal control officer, and/or the state animal control officer.
- B) May be leash walked under, immediate control of an adult within the confines of the premises only.
- C) Animals may not be allowed contact with other animals or humans other than designated caretaker.
- D) Owner is informed of potential rabies and given instructions in writing.
- E) Animal is observed daily and owner is required to notify the local animal control officer and the local director of health 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 quarantine period without the permission of the supervising official. In the event the animal escapes, the owner must notify the local animal control officer and the local director of health immediately.

3) Quarantine

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

Strict Confinement instructions for owners

THE FOLLOWING MUST BE DONE:

1. Confine the animal in a house, garage, kennel, or other escape proof enclosure or building, approved by the local director of health, and/or the local animal control officer, and/or the state canine control officer.
2. Observe the animal daily for any signs of illness or behavioral changes.
3. Contact the local animal control officer, the local director of health and your veterinarian IMMEDIATELY if any illness or behavioral changes are noted.
4. The animal must be on a leash and under the control of an adult if it is outside of an enclosure.
5. If the animal escapes, notify the local animal control officer and the local director of health immediately.
6. Do not permit contact with any other animal or humans.
7. Do not remove the animal from the quarantine premises during the period of quarantine, except for emergencies.
8. Do not sell, give away, kill or otherwise dispose of the animal during the quarantine period without permission of the Commissioner of Agriculture.