Evaluation of Animal Bites and Other Rabies Exposures for Appropriate Animal Control Measures

Has the animal bite penetrated the skin; or has saliva or neural tissue entered an open wound or mucous membrane; or was there potential exposure to a bat?*

Yes

Is the biting animal a mammal?

Yes

Is the biting animal a small rodent or rabbit†?

Yes

Is the biting animal at a known location and available for 10 day confinement and observation, or rabies testing?

Yes

No action is needed. Contact CDC if there are special circumstances.

No

Is the victim a human or domestic animal?

Human

Animal

No exposure has occurred. No treatment needed.

Exposure by proximity (seen near or in same vicinity of known rabid animal) but no contact or wounds.

Yes

No

Vaccinated: Consider rabies booster. Observe for 45 days.

Unvaccinated: Vaccinate immediately. Observe for 6 months.

Rabies naturally only infects mammals. No action needed.

Victim= Human

Post-exposure prophylaxis may be indicated. Contact Maine CDC for assistance.

Victim= Vaccinated Animal*

Booster rabies immediately (unless vaccinated within 28 days prior to bite). Notify ACO. Observe for 45 days.

Victim= Unvaccinated Animal or Wolf Hybrid†

1. Euthanize

2. If owner unwilling:
   a. Notify ACO to administer 6 month quarantine
   b. Vaccinate on entry or 28 days prior to release

No action is needed. Contact ACO to administer 10 day confinement and observation‡.

If bitten by a domestic animal, contact ACO to administer 10 day confinement and observation‡. Have veterinarian booster rabies vaccine immediately if domestic animal was bitten.

If bitten by wildlife or wildlife hybrid, submit wildlife or wildlife hybrid for testing. Contact IF&W for assistance.

AND if human exposure, contact Maine CDC.

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*Bat exposure may be difficult to detect. Please contact Maine CDC for consultation on suspected bat exposures.

†Bites from squirrels, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rats, mice, and other small rodents and rabbits almost never require treatment. Contact Maine CDC for further guidance.

‡10 day confinement and observation period only apply to dogs, cats and ferrets (regardless of vaccination status).

+Currently vaccinated animals: Animals are considered vaccinated for rabies if at least 28 days has elapsed since the initial vaccination, and the duration of the vaccination has not exceeded the time period recommended for that species and brand of vaccine.

^Unvaccinated animal: An animal with no previous rabies vaccination OR one whose first rabies vaccination was given within previous 28 days OR one whose last rabies vaccination has expired OR no approved vaccine exists for the species (i.e., wildlife hybrids).

Remember to fill out Animal Bite Report and submit to local municipality.

Fill out rabies submission form completely. Refer to Maine Rabies Management Guidelines for assistance.

Maine CDC: 1-800-821-5821

Maine Animal Control Officers: Contact town office or local law enforcement

Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, & Forestry: 207-287-7615

Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Warden Service: 207-657-3030 (Gray dispatch), 1-800-452-4664 (Augusta dispatch)