



## Animal Bite !!!

### *When should I seek medical attention?*

**Immediately wash any wounds with soap and water and then plan to see a healthcare provider.**

If you've been bitten or scratched, you should talk with your healthcare provider to determine if you're at risk for rabies or other illnesses.

See your healthcare provider for attention for any injury from to an animal bite, they will determine the need for rabies vaccination.

After any wounds have been addressed, your provider will decide your treatment. Decisions will be based on your type of exposure, the animal you were exposed to, whether the animal is available for testing.

### *What type of exposure occurred?*

A dog, cat, or ferret that is **currently vaccinated** is *unlikely* to become infected with rabies.

### *Is the animal available for testing?*

A **healthy** domestic dog, cat, or ferret that bites a person should be confined and observed for 10 days.

If the animal shows any signs of illness during the confinement period or before the release date, it should be evaluated by a veterinarian and reported immediately to your local public health department.

If the signs suggest rabies, postexposure prophylaxis should be initiated. The animal should be euthanized; its head removed and shipped (under refrigeration), for examination by a qualified laboratory. Please call your health care provider, local health department and veterinarian for further information.

If the **animal is stray or unwanted**, it should either be confined and observed for 10 days or be euthanized immediately and submitted for rabies examination.

**Skunks, raccoons, foxes and bats** that bite humans should be euthanized and tested as soon as possible. The length of time between rabies virus appearing in the saliva and onset of symptoms is unknown for these animals and holding them for observation is not acceptable.

After exposure to wildlife in which rabies is suspected, prophylaxis is warranted in most circumstances. Because the period of rabies virus shedding in wild animal hybrids is unknown, these animals should be euthanized and tested rather than confined and observed when they bite humans.

Vaccination should be discontinued if tests of the involved animal are negative for rabies infection.

Content source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases (NCEZID), Division of High-Consequence Pathogens and Pathology (DHCPP)

Photo: <https://www.in.gov/rabies/rabies-prevention/>

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