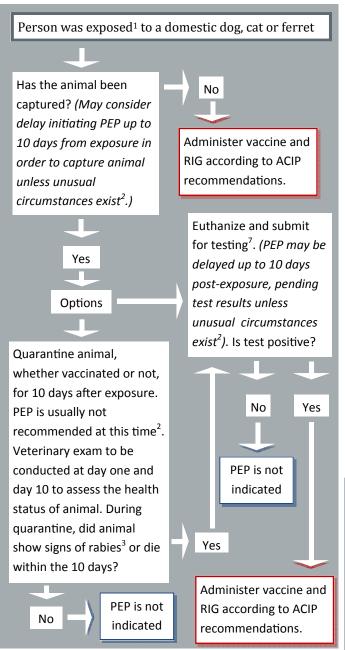
Rabies Exposure Assessment Algorithm





Person was exposed¹ to small rodents⁴ or rabbits

PEP not recommended. If unusual circumstances exist.

contact Division of Disease Control for guidance⁶.

Person was exposed¹ to a domestic animal such as cow, horse, sheep, pig, elk or bison Does the animal exhibit No signs of rabies³ or did it die suddenly? Contact Division of Disease Control⁶. Yes Administer vaccine and Is the animal available No RIG according to ACIP for testing? recommendations. Yes Test animal for rabies⁷. (PEP may be delayed up to 3 days post-Yes exposure, pending test results unless unusual circumstances exist²). Is test positive? PEP is not indicated No

Person was exposed¹ to a free ranging wild animal such as a skunk, fox, coyote, raccoon or bat⁵ Has the animal been No captured? Administer vaccine and RIG according to ACIP Yes recommendations. Test animal for rabies⁷. (PEP may be delayed up to 3 days Yes post-exposure, pending test results unless unusual circumstances exist²). Is test positive? PEP is not indicated Nο Person was exposed¹ to other wild animal kept in a zoo, pet store, exhibit or under the control of a private individual Contact Division of Disease Control⁶.

- Exposure: Defined as a bite that broke the skin, or saliva contact to an open cut, sore or wound or to mucous membrane (mouth, nose, eye). If no exposure exists, PEP is not needed.
- 2. If the animal exhibited any signs or symptoms of rabies (see 3), if the attack was vicious or unprovoked or the bite(s) occurred in the head and neck region, consideration should be given to starting post-exposure prophylaxis immediately.
- Signs of rabies may include any one of the following: excitability, vicious attacks, biting, agitation, restlessness, aggressiveness, lack of fear, excessive salivation, aversion to water, inability to swallow or drink, muscular dysfunction, coordination or gait irregularities, paralysis, convulsions, avoidance of contact with humans or other animals, lethargy and loss of appetite.
- Small rodents include squirrels, hamsters, mice, rats, gerbils, chipmunks, moles and voles.
- Bats pose particular risks and rabies transmission has occurred in the absence of a recognized bite. Every effort should be made to capture and test the bat involved in any exposure incident. If the patient can provide adequate history that no direct exposure occurred, then no treatment is necessary. If the patient is an unobserved child, a person who was asleep, intoxicated or mentally disabled, then post-exposure prophylaxis may be indicated, especially if the status of the bat cannot be ascertained through lab testing.
- For rabies exposure consultation, contact the Division of Disease Control at 800.472.218 or 701.328.2378.
- For testing, contact the Division of Laboratory Services at 701.328.6272 or NDSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at 701.231.8307.

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