Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis not usually recommended. If unusual circumstances exist, contact Division of Disease Control for guidance.

FOOTNOTES
1. 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).
2. 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 challenged, then post-exposure prophylaxis may be indicated, especially if the status of the bat cannot be ascertained through lab testing.
3. If the animal exhibited any signs or symptoms of rabies or illness (see footnote 4), 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.
4. Symptoms of rabies may include any one or more 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.
5. The Division of Disease Control may be contacted at 1.800.472.2180 (statewide) or 701.328.2378.
6. The Division of Microbiology may be contacted at 701.6272 for assistance.

RABIES EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT ALGORITHM

Was there an exposure? NO

YES

Type of Animal

Free ranging wild animal such as skunk, fox, coyote, raccoon, bat

Does animal exhibit signs of rabies or die suddenly?

YES

Contact Division of Disease Control.

NO

Has the animal been apprehended? NO

YES

Has the animal been apprehended? NO

YES

Other wild animal kept in a zoo, pet store, exhibit or under the control of a private individual

Contact Division of Disease Control.

NO

Is animal available for testing?

YES

Test animal for rabies. Is test positive?

YES

Administer vaccine and RIG according to ACIP recommendations. MMWR

NO

Post-exposure prophylaxis is not indicated.

Domestic animal such as cow, horse, sheep, pig, elk or bison

Domestic dog, cat or ferret

Post-exposure prophylaxis is usually not recommended at this time. Quarantine animal, whether vaccinated or not, for 10 days after exposure. Veterinary exam to be conducted at day one and day 10 to assess health status of animal. During quarantine, did animal show signs of rabies or die within the 10 days?

YES

Euthanize and submit for testing. Post-exposure prophylaxis treatment may be delayed pending test results unless unusual circumstances exist.

Post-exposure prophylaxis is not indicated.

Other wild animal kept in a zoo, pet store, exhibit or under the control of a private individual

Contact Division of Disease Control.

NO

Is animal available for testing?

YES

Test animal for rabies. Is test positive?

YES

Administer vaccine and RIG according to ACIP recommendations. MMWR

NO

Post-exposure prophylaxis is not indicated.

Domestic dog, cat or ferret

Has the animal been apprehended? NO

YES

Has the animal been apprehended? NO

YES

Other wild animal kept in a zoo, pet store, exhibit or under the control of a private individual

Contact Division of Disease Control.

NO

Is animal available for testing?

YES

Test animal for rabies. Is test positive?

YES

Administer vaccine and RIG according to ACIP recommendations. MMWR

NO

Post-exposure prophylaxis is not indicated.

Domestic animal such as cow, horse, sheep, pig, elk or bison

Does animal exhibit signs of rabies or die suddenly?

YES

Contact Division of Disease Control.

NO

Is animal available for testing?

YES

Test animal for rabies. Is test positive?

YES

Administer vaccine and RIG according to ACIP recommendations. MMWR

NO

Post-exposure prophylaxis is not indicated.

Domestic dog, cat or ferret

Has the animal been apprehended? NO

YES

Has the animal been apprehended? NO

YES

Other wild animal kept in a zoo, pet store, exhibit or under the control of a private individual

Contact Division of Disease Control.

NO

Is animal available for testing?

YES

Test animal for rabies. Is test positive?

YES

Administer vaccine and RIG according to ACIP recommendations. MMWR

NO

Post-exposure prophylaxis is not indicated.

Domestic dog, cat or ferret

Has the animal been apprehended? NO

YES

Has the animal been apprehended? NO

YES

Other wild animal kept in a zoo, pet store, exhibit or under the control of a private individual

Contact Division of Disease Control.

NO

Is animal available for testing?

YES

Test animal for rabies. Is test positive?

YES

Administer vaccine and RIG according to ACIP recommendations. MMWR

NO

Post-exposure prophylaxis is not indicated.

Domestic dog, cat or ferret

Has the animal been apprehended? NO

YES

Has the animal been apprehended? NO

YES

Other wild animal kept in a zoo, pet store, exhibit or under the control of a private individual

Contact Division of Disease Control.

NO

Is animal available for testing?

YES

Test animal for rabies. Is test positive?

YES

Administer vaccine and RIG according to ACIP recommendations. MMWR

NO

Post-exposure prophylaxis is not indicated.