

# Recommendations for Managing Human Rabies Exposure\*

For Bat Exposures see Rabies Exposure Management for Bat-related Incidents Flow Chart, available at [www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies\\_exposure\\_bats.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/cade/rabies_exposure_bats.pdf)



Animal Species	Situation	Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Recommendations
<b>Dogs, cats, ferrets</b>	Animal available for testing or 10 day confinement and observation	If the animal is exhibiting clinical symptoms, immediately euthanize and test. If the animal is not exhibiting clinical signs, a 10 day confinement period can be instituted. If the animal exhibits signs of rabies during the 10 day confinement period, it should be euthanized immediately and submitted for testing. If results are positive, unsuitable or indeterminate administer PEP immediately. If the animal does not exhibit clinical signs during the 10 day confinement period, PEP should not be administered. Animal was not excreting virus at the time of the bite.
	Animal unavailable (waiting up to 72 hours to capture the animal may be reasonable, assuming the correct animal can be identified)	If the animal is not available for confinement or testing, administer PEP. If the animal can be captured within 72 hours, follow the procedures outlined above.
<b>Horses or other farm animals</b>	Does the animal exhibit signs of rabies or did it die suddenly? If so, test the animal for rabies.	Defer administration of PEP until outcome of testing. If results are positive, unsuitable or indeterminate administer PEP.
	All other cases, contact IDPH for guidance.	Contact IDPH at 800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours.
<b>Skunk, raccoon, fox, coyote</b>	Euthanize and test animal	Defer administration of PEP until outcome of testing. If results are positive, unsuitable or indeterminate administer PEP.
	Animal unavailable for testing	Administer PEP.
<b>Large rodents: such as beavers or groundhogs</b>	Euthanize and test animal	Defer administration of PEP until outcome of testing. If results are positive, unsuitable or indeterminate administer PEP.
	Animal unavailable for testing	Contact IDPH for consultation at 800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours.
<b>Small rodent: such as squirrels, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rats, mice, rabbits, or opossum</b>	Provoked bite	No action necessary, as these species almost never carry rabies.
	Unprovoked bite or behaving abnormally	Contact IDPH for consultation at 800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours.

\*Exposure: a bite or saliva/nervous tissue contact to an open wound or mucous membrane

Thoroughly wash all wounds with soap and water and, if available, flush with povidone iodine solution (or other virucidal solution). Evaluate tetanus vaccination status, update if needed.

If the patient was severely attacked and bitten, please contact the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) immediately for consultation.

IDPH is available for consultation at 800-362-2736 during business hours or 515-323-4360 after hours.

For additional information, visit [www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/rabies.asp](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/rabies.asp).

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