

# ANIMAL BITES & RABIES RISK

## Recommendations for Los Angeles County\*

When the biting animal is available for evaluation by quarantine or testing, the results may determine if the animal is rabid and the bite victim needs Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). The species of the animal and its health may also help determine rabies risk.



### HIGH RISK OF RABIES

**Bats / Abnormally Acting Wildlife / Foreign Animals**

REPORT BITE TO VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH IMMEDIATELY.

Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is FREQUENTLY indicated.



### MODERATE RISK OF RABIES

**Sick Local Dogs or Cats / Normally Acting Non-Bat Wildlife**

(such as skunks, foxes, raccoons, coyotes, opossums)

Report bite to Veterinary Public Health.

PEP is SOMETIMES indicated.



### LOW RISK OF RABIES

**Healthy Local Dogs or Cats (including local stray dogs and cats) / Livestock / Horses**

Report bite to Veterinary Public Health.

PEP is RARELY indicated.



### NOT REPORTABLE

**Squirrels / Rabbits / Small Rodents (rats, mice) / Birds / Snakes**

Bites from these animals are not reportable because they do not spread rabies.

PEP is NOT indicated.

## REPORTING

Email (preferred): [vet@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:vet@ph.lacounty.gov) or fax: (213) 481-2375. Download form at:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/docs/Forms/BiteReportMed.pdf> Online: [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm)

Phone: (213) 288-7060 or (877) 747-2243 (Vet Public Health/M-F, 8am-5pm)

- Always report details about the biting animal, including current location if known.
- If the biting animal is available, quarantine/testing it for rabies will help determine if the victim needs treatment.
- Contact Animal Control about injured, sick or loose animals: [www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/AnimalControlList.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/AnimalControlList.htm)

## CONSULTATIONS

*Consultation regarding rabies risk*

Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm

Veterinary Public Health: (213) 288-7060 or (877) 747-2243 or [vet@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:vet@ph.lacounty.gov)

Ask to speak to the Veterinarian On-Duty.

*Consultation on individual patient care decisions*

Mon-Fri: 8am-5pm. Consultations also available after-hours for emergencies.

Acute Communicable Disease Control: (213) 240-7941

Ask to speak to the Physician On-Duty

\*The rabies risk in Los Angeles County may shift over time. Other counties may have different rabies risks.

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