

# Rabies and Bite reporting for Los Angeles County Animal Control staff



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
Veterinary Public Health Program  
Gaël Lamielle, DVM, MPH, Dipl. ACVPM



**There is no commercial support for this presentation**

None of the speakers or planners for this presentation have disclosed any financial interests related to the content of the presentation

## 1. Rabies

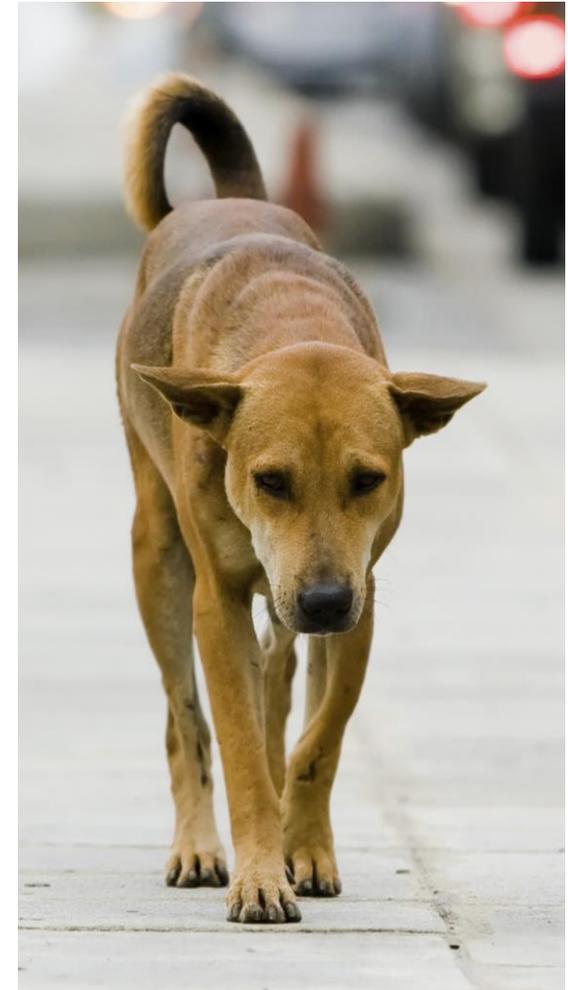
- What it is
- Data in Los Angeles County

## 2. Bite reporting

- Reporting process
- What Public Health does with reports

## 3. Quarantine & testing

- Quarantine procedures
- Testing for rabies



- **What are zoonotic diseases (zoonoses)?**
  - Diseases shared between animals and people
- **Any examples?**
  - 60% of infectious diseases of humans came from animals
  - Rabies, West Nile virus, *Salmonella*, hookworms, roundworms, scabies, flu, Ebola,...



- **Background**
  - Virus
  - Must be inside a person/animal's cell to survive
  - Present worldwide →  $\approx$  55 000 dead/year globally
  - Each animal species has own strain (e.g. dog strain, bat strain,...)
- **Species affected**
  - Humans
  - Domestic animals: dogs, cats, livestock, horses, ferrets, etc...
  - Wildlife: bats, skunks, raccoons, opossums, foxes, etc...

## ANY MAMMAL CAN GET RABIES



- **Animals**
  - At 1<sup>st</sup> can look like **any disease**
  - Progresses to neurologic signs:
    - Lack of coordination, salivation, seizures
    - Abnormal behavior – “dumb” vs “furious” rabies
    - Biting at inanimate objects
- **Humans**
  - Similar to animals
  - Neurologic: difficulty swallowing, seizures, coma, death
- **Once symptoms of rabies occur...**
  - **Rapidly progressive**
  - **100% fatal in animals and people**



- **Animal bites**

- Virus is present in saliva
- Bite = anytime tooth break the skin
- Must go through the skin to cause disease

- **Human-human transmission**

- Organ transplant
- Direct transmission never seen

- **“Exposure” to bat**

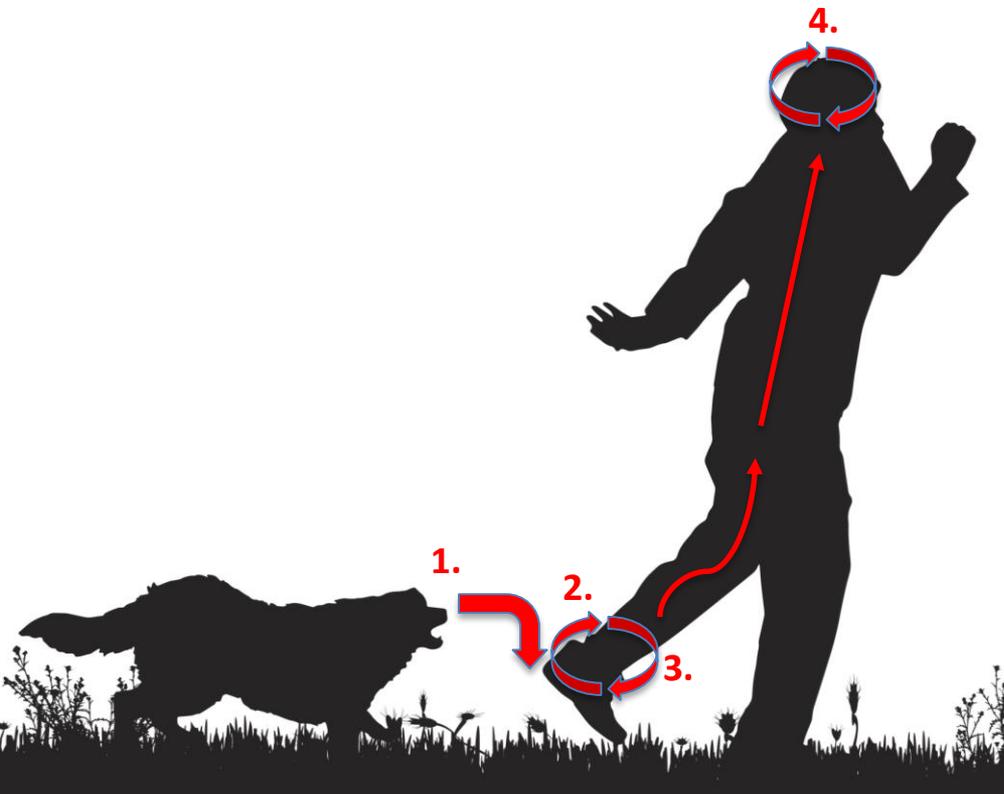
- Bat bites are very small – no marks
- ANY CONTACT with bats may be an exposure
  - E.g. A bat found inside a home
  - May lead to unnoticed bite
  - More investigation needed



- Could you recognize this as a bat bite?
- Would a bite like this one wake you up if you were sleeping?



# What happens to the virus after a bite?



**1. Bite from a rabid animal**



**2. Virus replicating in muscle**

(days to weeks)



**3. Virus enters a nerve & travels to brain**

(weeks to months)



**4. Virus enters brain & symptoms start to appear**



**5. Virus enters saliva & transmission can occur**

**SYMPTOMS OF RABIES MAY START WEEKS TO YEARS AFTER A BITE**

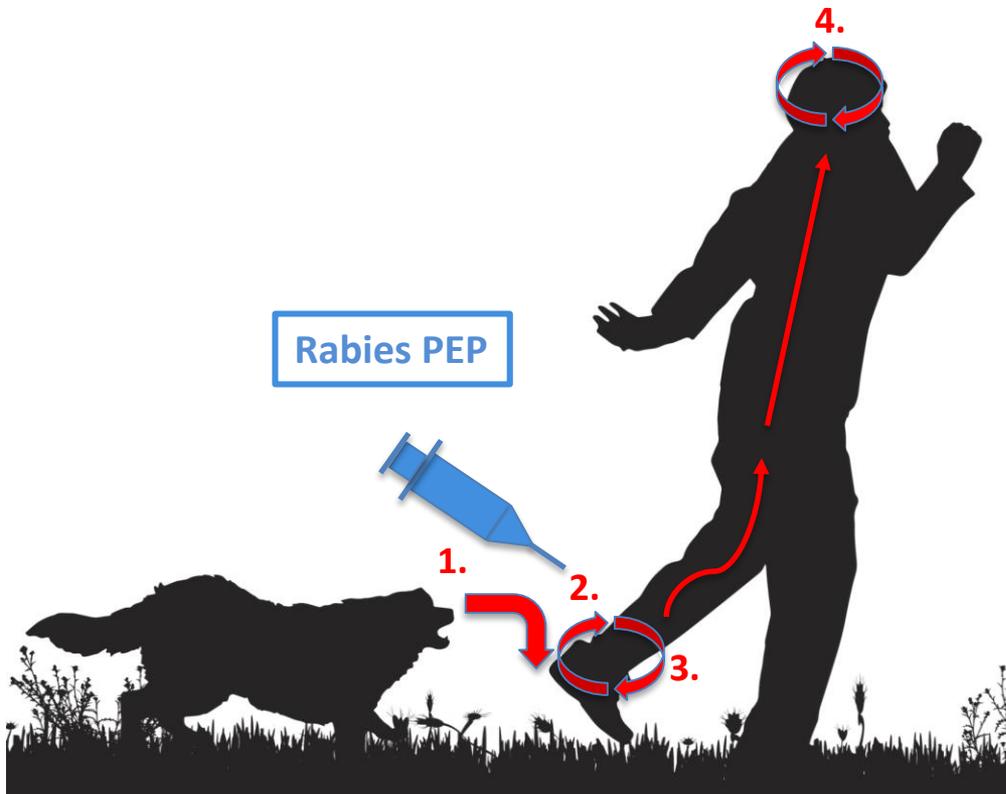
- **Once symptoms start, there is no cure for rabies**
- **BEFORE A BITE – Rabies vaccination**
  - Protects people in case they get bitten by a rabid animal
  - Recommended for people working with animals
- **AFTER A BITE – Post exposure prophylaxis (PEP)**
  - Given right away, **before** symptoms occur
  - Boosts body to fight virus on its own before it enters brain
  - Consists of:
    - Rabies antibodies (RIG) into the bite wound
    - 4-5 vaccine injections at: Day 0, Day 3, Day 7, Day 14
  - Washing wound with soap/water: ↓ numbers of virus in the wound



**PEOPLE EXPOSED TO RABIES MUST BE TREATED IMMEDIATELY**



# Getting rabies PEP – As soon as possible!



**1. Bite from a rabid animal**

**2. Virus replicating in muscle**  
(days to weeks)

**3. Virus enters a nerve & travels to brain**  
(weeks to months)

**4. Virus enters brain & symptoms start to appear**

**5. Virus enters saliva & transmission can occur (animals)**

- **In the past:**
  - Dog rabies rampant in LA Co. in the 1920's
  - Eradicated because of animal control efforts
    - Dog licensing
    - Mandatory rabies vaccination
- **Today, local risk of rabies limited to:**
  - Bats
  - Bites from sick (neurologic animals)
  - Bites from animals abroad



© Merlin D. Tuttle, Bat Conservation International, [www.batcon.org](http://www.batcon.org)

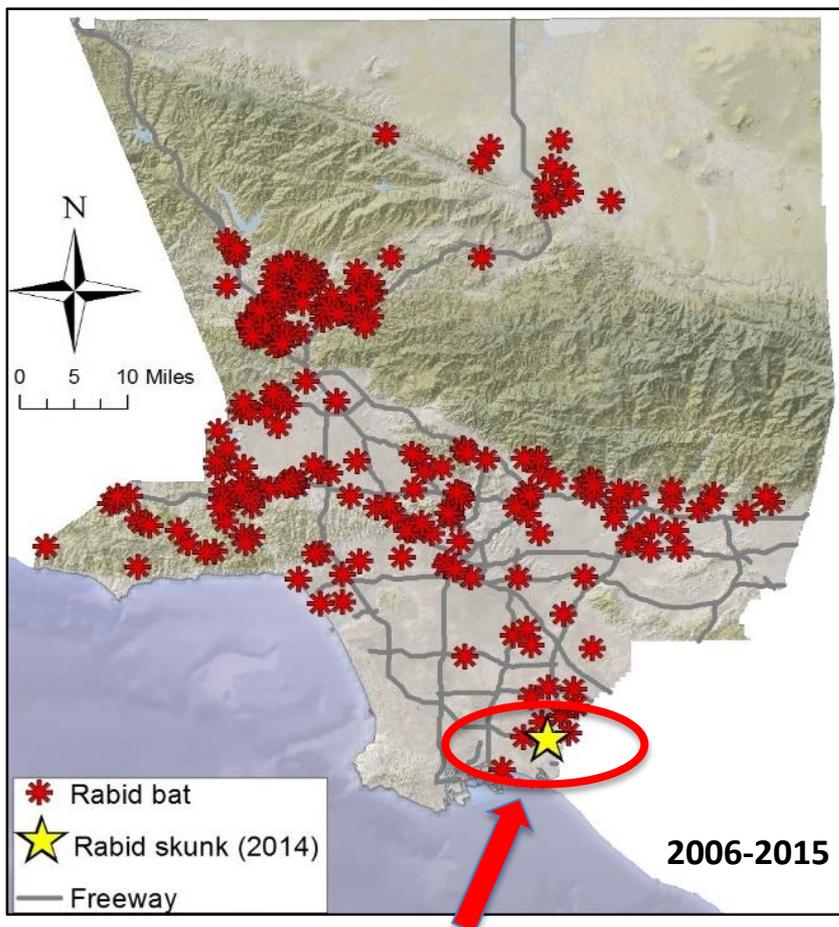
Bats are helpful!  
They control insect  
populations

**CURRENTLY, LA CO. HAS NO ESTABLISHED TERRESTRIAL RABIES**

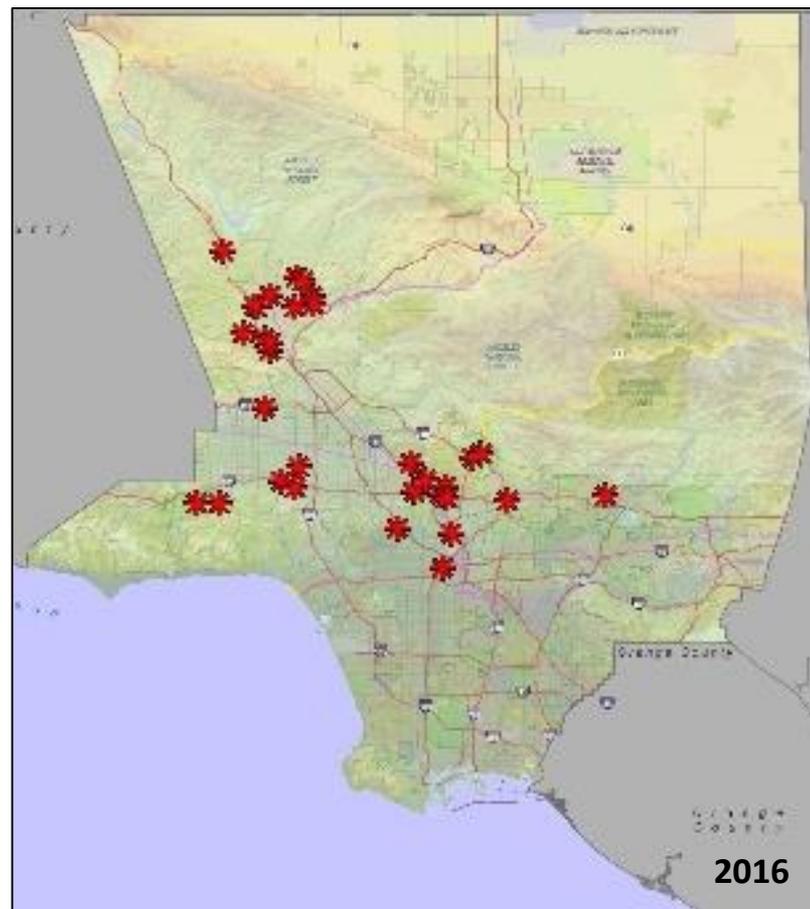


# Rabies in LA Co. – Geographical factors

**RABIES positive:** 203 bats; 1 skunk



**RABIES positive:** **38** bats (as of 12/2016)



**FIRST rabid skunk found in LA Co. since 1979:**

Lab identifies BAT strain of rabies



Bat transmitted rabies to the skunk

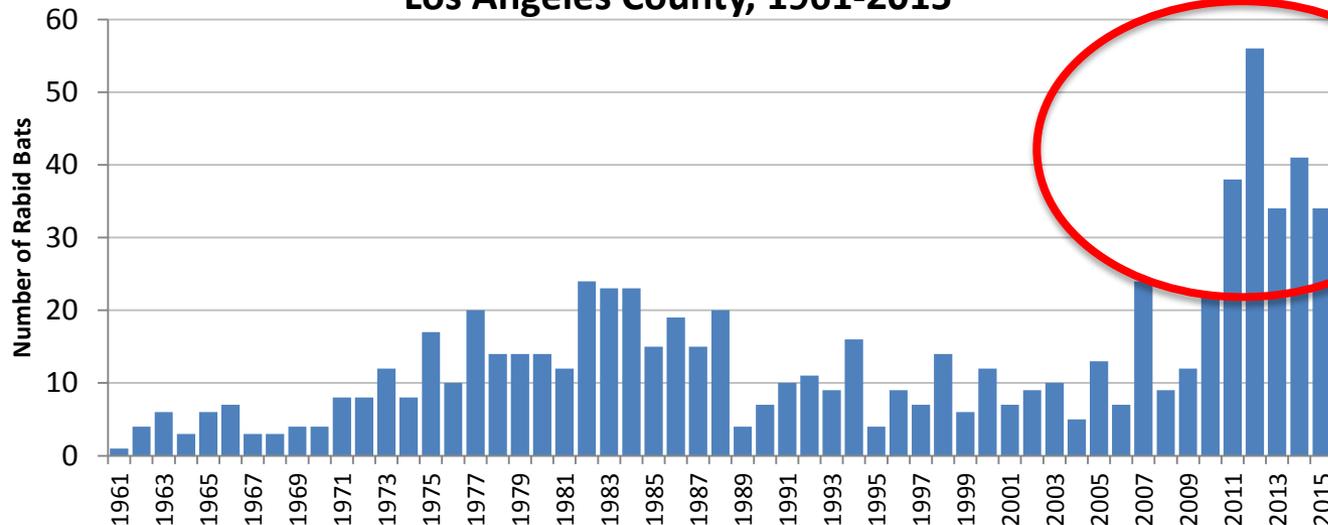
## **More 2016 stats:**

- 56% found in private homes
- 31% found INDOORS (6 homes, 1 business)
- 13 people, 10 pets considered exposed



# Rabies in LA Co. – Temporal factors

Rabid bats detected in  
Los Angeles County, 1961-2015

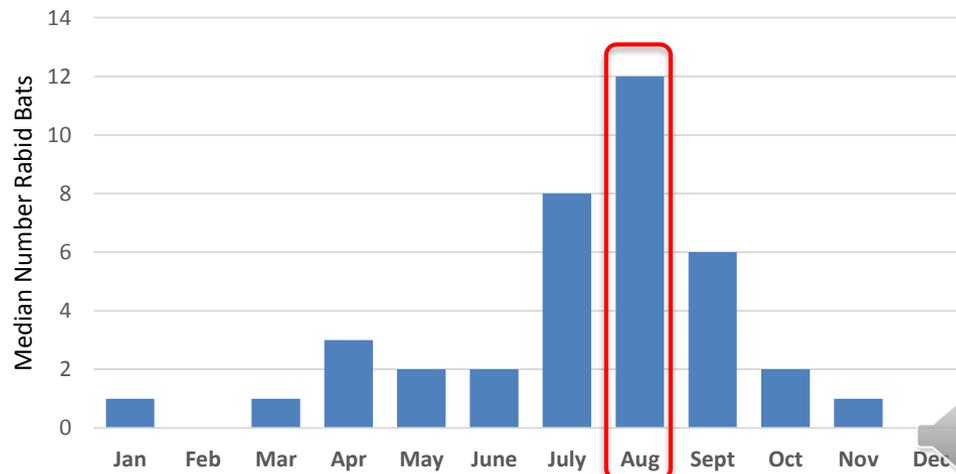


Big increase in number of rabid bats in past 5 years

• Last locally-acquired rabies case in...

- Dogs → 1966 (1978, faulty vaccine)
- Cats → 1960s
- Raccoons → 1973
- Opossum → 1944
- Skunk strain → 1979
- Human → 1949
- Bats → Every year

Median Number of rabid bats per month, Los Angeles County 2011-2015



- **Different animals can carry rabies in other parts of US**
  - Rabies risk from animal bites depends on where bite occurred
  - Animal movements may introduce terrestrial rabies locally

**Terrestrial rabies risk in US (CDC)**

**Bat rabies is present everywhere**



**LOCAL RABIES RISK MAY CHANGE OVER TIME – STAY VIGILANT**

## ANIMAL BITES & RABIES RISK

### Recommendations for Los Angeles County

Not all animal bites need to be reported to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Bites from some animals pose greater risk for rabies infection than others.



#### HIGH RISK

##### REPORT TO PUBLIC HEALTH IMMEDIATELY

- BATS: URGENT!** Report any bite or exposure immediately.
- SICK DOGS, CATS:** Report bite if animal has abnormal behavior consistent with rabies (aggression, drooling, neurologic trouble).
- FOREIGN DOGS:** Report if bite occurred in a country where dog rabies exists.
- SICK WILDLIFE:** Report bite if animal (coyotes, raccoons, skunks) has abnormal behavior consistent with rabies.



#### MODERATE RISK

*These are not urgent cases — Report bite online to Vet Public Health.*  
**WILDLIFE:** Healthy, with normal behavior (coyotes, raccoons, skunks).



#### LOW RISK

*These are not urgent cases — Report bite online to Vet Public Health.*  
**LOCAL DOGS, CATS:** Healthy, with normal behavior.



#### NOT REPORTABLE

**SQUIRRELS, RABBITS, RODENTS, BIRDS, SNAKES:** Bites from these animals are not reportable because they do not spread rabies.

#### REPORTING ANIMAL BITES TO PUBLIC HEALTH

**Phone:** (877) 747-2243 (toll free) or (213) 989-7060  
Monday-Friday 7:30 am-5 pm

**Online:** Fill out and submit reporting form at  
[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm)

- 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.

The rabies risk in LA County may shift over time. Other counties may have different rabies risks.

**Rabbits & rodents**  
(rats, squirrels, mice, etc)  
can get rabies but they  
don't transmit it to  
people



- **Any mammal can get rabies**
- **Animals/people with clinical rabies will not get better**
- **Symptoms of rabies may start weeks to years after a bite**
- **People exposed to rabies must be treated immediately**
- **Currently, LA County has no established terrestrial rabies**
- **Local rabies risk may change over time – Stay vigilant!**
- **Bat rabies is present in LA County & occurs every year**

## PART 2:

# Bite reporting

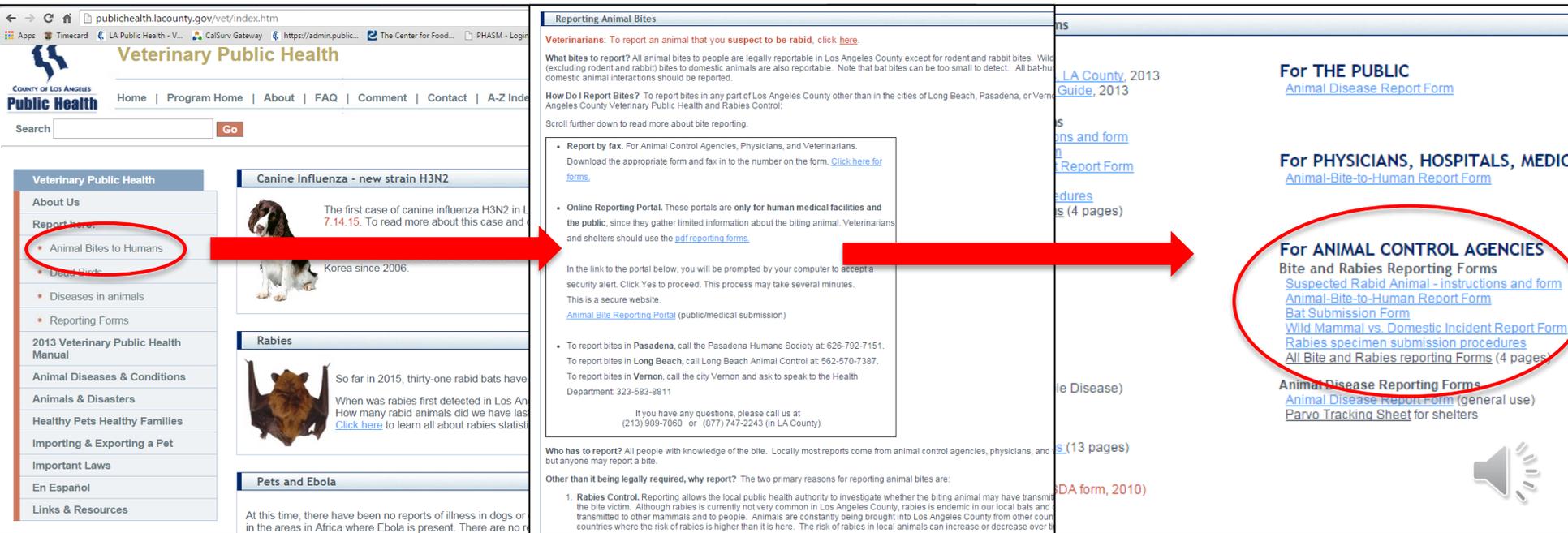


- **Why we do it**
  - Goal: prevent rabies in people and pets
  - California Law
- **Who does it**
  - Law says: everyone with knowledge of a bite
- **How it must be done**
  - Must be legible, complete
  - Animal owner info included (if not stray)
  - Bats must have **contact information of person who found it**
  - Report to Vet Public Health as soon as possible



# Bite reporting – 3 ways to do it

- **Fax copy of report**
  - Fax number: 213-481-2375
- **Email copy of report**
  - [vet@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:vet@ph.lacounty.gov)
- **Fill out online report**
  - <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/>



The screenshot displays the 'Veterinary Public Health' website. On the left, a navigation menu has 'Animal Bites to Humans' circled in red. A red arrow points from this menu item to the 'Reporting Animal Bites' page. Another red arrow points from the 'Reporting Animal Bites' page to a list of reporting forms on the right. The 'Reporting Animal Bites' page includes sections for 'Veterinarians', 'How Do I Report Bites?', and 'Who has to report?'. The right side of the screenshot lists forms for 'THE PUBLIC', 'PHYSICIANS, HOSPITALS, MEDICAL FACILITIES', and 'ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCIES', with the 'ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCIES' section circled in red.

**Veterinary Public Health**

Home | Program Home | About | FAQ | Comment | Contact | A-Z Index

Search

**Animal Bites to Humans**

**Reporting Animal Bites**

**Veterinarians:** To report an animal that you suspect to be rabid, [click here](#).

**What bites to report?** All animal bites to people are legally reportable in Los Angeles County except for rodent and rabbit bites. Wild (excluding rodent and rabbit) bites to domestic animals are also reportable. Note that bat bites can be too small to detect. All bat-human domestic animal interactions should be reported.

**How Do I Report Bites?** To report bites in any part of Los Angeles County other than in the cities of Long Beach, Pasadena, or Vernon, call the Los Angeles County Veterinary Public Health and Rabies Control.

Scroll further down to read more about bite reporting.

- **Report by fax.** For Animal Control Agencies, Physicians, and Veterinarians. Download the appropriate form and fax in to the number on the form. [Click here for forms.](#)
- **Online Reporting Portal.** These portals are **only for human medical facilities and the public**, since they gather limited information about the biting animal. Veterinarians and shelters should use the [pdf reporting forms](#).

In the link to the portal below, you will be prompted by your computer to accept a security alert. Click Yes to proceed. This process may take several minutes. This is a secure website. [Animal Bite Reporting Portal](#) (public/medical submission)

- To report bites in **Pasadena**, call the Pasadena Humane Society at: 626-792-7151.
- To report bites in **Long Beach**, call Long Beach Animal Control at: 562-570-7387.
- To report bites in **Vernon**, call the city Vernon and ask to speak to the Health Department: 323-583-8811

If you have any questions, please call us at (213) 989-7060 or (877) 747-2243 (in LA County)

**Who has to report?** All people with knowledge of the bite. Locally most reports come from animal control agencies, physicians, and but anyone may report a bite.

**Other than it being legally required, why report?** The two primary reasons for reporting animal bites are:

1. **Rabies Control.** Reporting allows the local public health authority to investigate whether the biting animal may have transmitted the bite victim. Although rabies is currently not very common in Los Angeles County, rabies is endemic in our local bats and transmitted to other mammals and to people. Animals are constantly being brought into Los Angeles County from other countries where the risk of rabies is higher than it is here. The risk of rabies in local animals can increase or decrease over time.

**For THE PUBLIC**  
[Animal Disease Report Form](#)

**For PHYSICIANS, HOSPITALS, MEDICAL FACILITIES**  
[Animal-Bite-to-Human Report Form](#)

**For ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCIES**  
**Bite and Rabies Reporting Forms**  
[Suspected Rabid Animal - instructions and form](#)  
[Animal-Bite-to-Human Report Form](#)  
[Bat Submission Form](#)  
[Wild Mammal vs. Domestic Incident Report Form](#)  
[Rabies specimen submission procedures](#)  
[All Bite and Rabies reporting Forms \(4 pages\)](#)

**Animal Disease Reporting Forms**  
[Animal Disease Report Form](#) (general use)  
[Parvo Tracking Sheet](#) for shelters

## REPORTABLE

- **Bites to humans, from:**
  - Dogs
  - Cats
  - Wildlife
  - Horse
  - Any mammal... (except if listed in next column)
- **Bites to pets from:**
  - Wildlife

## NOT REPORTABLE

- **Bites to humans, from:**
  - Rodents (mice, rats, squirrels,...)
  - Rabbits
  - Non-mammals: birds, snakes, etc
- **Bites between domestic animals:**
  - Dogs vs dog
  - Cat vs cat
  - Dog vs cat
- **Scratches\*\* from animals**

\*A bite is ANYTIME teeth break the skin

\*\*scratch is from paw ONLY

- **VPH follows up with EVERY animal bite received**
  - Animal Sanitation Inspectors contact each animal owner
  - If necessary, vets contact bite victim about rabies PEP
- **Biting dogs/cats must be quarantined**
  - Usually → At home
  - Sometimes → Shelter, vet clinic
- **Incomplete/illegible bite reports:**
  - Increase risk of rabies in bite victims

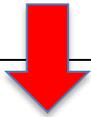


- **Scenario 1:** A child riding a bike was bitten by the neighbor's dog. The neighbor's gate was left open and the dog ran out to bite the victim and then ran right back to his yard.



# Let's fill out a bite report together

- Step 1: Choose a form**




**VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH-RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM**  
 TEL: (213)-989-7060 or (877) 747-2243 Fax: (213)-481-2375  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet)

**ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCIES**

Use this form to report animals suspected of being rabid, even if no bite occurred. If there was no bite

PERSON BITTEN		
Victim name (last and first)	Date of Birth	Address (number)
Victim phone number	Reported by:	
Date bitten	Time bitten	Address where bitten (if no address make sure to put city and zip code)
How bite occurred (explain)		
Date Treated	Hospitalized <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Treated by
Type of treatment		
ANIMAL		
Owner Name (last and first)	Address (number, street)	
Phone Number	Type of animal <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Breed <input type="checkbox"/> Cat Breed <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Animal Impounded <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Animal Shelter	Cage #
Was animal taken to a clinic for treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, provide clinic address in this space.	
Current Rabies Vaccination? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date Vaccinated	Animal sterilized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not vert
Animal licensed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	License number	Expiration date
Animal Died? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Euthanized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date	If Euthanized, give reason:
Specimen prepared and ready for rabies testing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not appl		
Remarks:		
Agency taking report:		
Date	Time	Faxed: <input type="checkbox"/> yes



**VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH – RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM**  
 Tel. (213) 987-7060 OR (877) 747-2243 Fax: (213) 481-2375  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet)

**DOMESTIC ANIMAL vs. WILD MAMMAL INCIDENT REPORT FORM**

DOMESTIC ANIMAL – PET INFORMATION		
Owner last name	Owner first name	Owner address, Number and street
Owner area code & phone	Species <input type="checkbox"/> Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat	Breed
Date bitten	Time bitten	Reported by
Address where bitten, Number and street		City and zip code
Animal vaccinated prior to contact with wildlife? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date vaccinated prior to contact with wildlife:	Animal vaccinated after coming into contact with wildlife? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Domestic animal impounded? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Animal Shelter	Impound #
Was animal taken to vet? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Name of Veterinary Hospital	Address, city and zip
Current location of animal: <input type="checkbox"/> Home address <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary clinic listed above <input type="checkbox"/> Other		
WILD LIFE INFORMATION (animals other than dog or cat)		
Type of wild animal <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote <input type="checkbox"/> Skunk <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon <input type="checkbox"/> Bat <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)	Wild animal disposition: <input type="checkbox"/> Left area/not located <input type="checkbox"/> Appeared sick	
Wild animal specimen prepared for rabies testing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	Location of wild animal specimen (clinic or shelter)	
Veterinary Clinic or Animal Control Agency taking report:	Impound# of wild animal (if applicable)	
Address of Veterinary Clinic or Animal Control Agency		
Comments:		
Submit a copy of the animal's rabies certificate(s), if available		
Report by:	Date taken:	Initials Faxed by




**VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH-RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM**  
 TEL: (213)-989-7060 or (877) 747-2243 FAX: (213) 481-2375  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet)

**BAT SUBMISSION FORM**

**INSTRUCTION:**

- All bats submitted to animal shelters must be reported to the Health Department immediately.
- Please FAX all information to (213) 481-2375
- Fill out as much information as possible.
- DO NOT DECAPITATE specimen.
- DO NOT FREEZE specimen.

- Bat Impound # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shelter \_\_\_\_\_ ACO \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of person who captured bat \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of owner/business where bat was found \_\_\_\_\_
- Address (where found) \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone Number of premise \_\_\_\_\_
- Capture location of bat:  
 Home (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  Garage  
 Business (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  
 Public place (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Time of capture or pickup \_\_\_\_\_
- Method used to capture bat \_\_\_\_\_
- State of bat when captured (check one)  Live or  Dead
- Did any people or animals have potential physical contact with bat?  Yes  No  
 Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_



# Let's fill out a bite report together

- **Step 2:** Victim information

PERSON BITTEN			
Victim name (last and first)		Date of Birth	Address (number, street, city and zip)
Victim phone number		Reported by:	Reporter phone number
Date bitten	Time bitten	Address where bitten (if no address make sure to put city and zip code)	Body location bitten
How bite occurred (explain)			
Date Treated	Hospitalized <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Treated by	Phone number
Type of treatment			
ANIMAL			

# Let's fill out a bite report together

- Step 3:** Animal information

ANIMAL			
Owner Name (last and first)		Address (number, street city and zip)	
Phone Number	Type of animal <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Breed _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cat Breed _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	Description of animal (sex, color)	
Animal Impounded <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Animal Shelter	Cage #	Impound #
Was animal taken to a clinic for treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If yes, provide clinic address in this space.	
Current Rabies Vaccination? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date Vaccinated	Animal sterilized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not verified	
Animal licensed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	License number	Expiration date	City or county licensed in
Animal Died? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Euthanized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date _____	If Euthanized, give reason:	
Specimen prepared and ready for rabies testing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable			
Remarks:			
Agency taking report:			
Date	Time	Faxed: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Initials

- **Scenario 2:** A man wakes up in the morning and finds a bat inside his bedroom. The bat is hanging on the bedroom door and hisses at him when he gets close. The man has 2 indoor-only cats that usually sleep on his bed. This morning the cats don't look very interested in the bat and there is no evidence of bite mark on them.



# Let's fill out a bite report together

- Step 1: Choose a form**




**VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH-RABIES CONTROL**  
TEL: (213)-989-7060 or (877) 747-2243 Fax: (213)-481-  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet)

**ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCIES**  
Use this form to report animals suspected of being rabid, even if no bite occurred. If there was no bite,

PERSON BITTEN		
Victim name (last and first)	Date of Birth	Address (number, st
Victim phone number	Reported by:	
Date bitten	Time bitten	Address where bitten (if no address make sure to put city and zip code)
How bite occurred (explain)		
Date Treated	Hospitalized <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Treated by
Type of treatment		

ANIMAL		
Owner Name (last and first)	Address (number, street city	
Phone Number	Type of animal <input type="checkbox"/> Dog Breed <input type="checkbox"/> Cat Breed <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
Animal Impounded <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	Animal Shelter	Cage #
Was animal taken to a clinic for treatment <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, provide clinic address in this space.		
Current Rabies Vaccination? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date Vaccinated	Animal sterilized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not verified
Animal licensed? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	License number	Expiration date
Animal Died? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Euthanized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Date	If Euthanized, give reason:
Specimen prepared and ready for rabies testing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applic		
Remarks:		
Agency taking report:		
Date	Time	Faxed: <input type="checkbox"/> yes



**VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH – RABIES CONTROL PRO**  
Tel. (213) 987-7060 OR (877) 747-2243 Fax: (213) 481-2375  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet)

**DOMESTIC ANIMAL vs. WILD MAMMAL  
INCIDENT REPORT FORM**

DOMESTIC ANIMAL – PET INFORMATION		
Owner last name	Owner first name	Owner address, Number and street
Owner area code & phone	Species <input type="checkbox"/> Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat	Breed
Date bitten	Time bitten	Reported by
Address where bitten, Number and street City and zip code		
Animal vaccinated prior to contact with wildlife? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Date vaccinated prior to contact with wildlife:	Animal vaccinated after coming into contact with wildlife? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Domestic animal impounded? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Animal Shelter	Impound #
Was animal taken to vet? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Name of Veterinary Hospital	Address, city and zip
Current location of animal: <input type="checkbox"/> Home address <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary clinic listed above <input type="checkbox"/> Other		

WILD LIFE INFORMATION (animals other than dog or cat)	
Type of wild animal <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote <input type="checkbox"/> Skunk <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon <input type="checkbox"/> Bat <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)	Wild animal disposition: <input type="checkbox"/> Left area/not located <input type="checkbox"/> Appeared sic
Wild animal specimen prepared for rabies testing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not applicable	Location of wild animal specimen (clinic or shelter)
Veterinary Clinic or Animal Control Agency taking report:	Impound# of wild animal (if applic
Address of Veterinary Clinic or Animal Control Agency	
Comments:	
Submit a copy of the animal's rabies certificate(s), if available	
Report by:	Date taken: Initials Faxed t






**VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH-RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM**  
TEL: (213)-989-7060 or (877) 747-2243 FAX: (213) 481-2375  
[publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet)

**BAT SUBMISSION FORM**

**INSTRUCTION:**

- All bats submitted to animal shelters must be reported to the Health Department immedi
- Please FAX all information to (213) 481-2375
- Fill out as much information as possible.
- DO NOT DECAPITATE specimen.
- DO NOT FREEZE specimen.

- Bat Impound # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Shelter \_\_\_\_\_ ACO \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of person who captured bat \_\_\_\_\_
- Name of owner/business where bat was found \_\_\_\_\_
- Address (where found) \_\_\_\_\_
- Phone Number of premise \_\_\_\_\_
- Capture location of bat:  
 Home (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  Gar  
 Business (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  
 Public place (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  
 Other
- Time of capture or pickup \_\_\_\_\_
- Method used to capture bat \_\_\_\_\_
- State of bat when captured (check one)  Live or  Dead
- Did any people or animals have potential physical contact with bat?  Yes  No  
Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_



# Let's fill out a bite report together



**VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH-RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM**  
TEL: (213)-989-7060 or (877) 747-2243 FAX: (213) 481-2375  
publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet



## BAT SUBMISSION FORM

### INSTRUCTION:

- All bats submitted to animal shelters must be reported to the Health Department immediately.
- Please FAX all information to (213) 481-2375
- Fill out as much information as possible.
- DO NOT DECAPITATE specimen.
- DO NOT FREEZE specimen.

1. Bat Impound # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Shelter \_\_\_\_\_ ACO \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Name of person who captured bat \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name of owner/business where bat was found \_\_\_\_\_

4. Address (where found) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Phone Number of premise \_\_\_\_\_

6. Capture location of bat:  Home (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  Garage  
 Business (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  
 Public place (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  
 Other

7. Time of capture or pickup \_\_\_\_\_

8. Method used to capture bat \_\_\_\_\_

9. State of bat when captured (check one)  Live or  Dead

10. Did any people or animals have potential physical contact with bat?  Yes  No

Explain:

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Very important!**

# How are these reports?

PERSON BITTEN			
Victim name (last and first)		Date of Birth	Address (number, street, city and zip)
Victim phone number		Reported by	Reporter phone number
Date bitten	Time bitten	Address where bitten (if no address make sure to put city and zip code)	Body location bitten
How bite occurred (explain)			
Date Treated	Hospitalized	Treated by	Phone number
8/24/15	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	urgent care	
Type of treatment			
antibiotics given			
OWNER		ANIMAL	
Owner Name (last and first)		Address (number, street city and zip)	
Phone Number	Type of animal	Description of animal (sex, color)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Dog Breed _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Cat Breed _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		
Animal Impounded	If yes, what shelter	Impound #	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Remarks			
Facility Taking Report:			
Date		Faxed: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Initials
8/24/15			

Where did the bite occur?

How did the bite occur?

Who is the owner?

What animal species?



# How are these bat reports?

**This bat was POSITIVE.  
Who do we contact?**

**INSTRUCTION:**

- > All bats submitted to animal shelters must be reported to the Health Department immediately.
- > Please FAX all information to (213) 481-2375
- > Fill out as much information as possible.
- > DO NOT DECAPITATE specimen.
- > DO NOT FREEZE specimen.

1. Bat Impound # [redacted] Date 8/11/15  
 Shelter [redacted] ACO [redacted]  
 Phone Number [redacted]

2. Name of person who captured bat Unknown Ambulance Driver, female

3. Name of owner/business where bat was found [redacted] Medical Center

4. Address (where found) [redacted] Tarzana, 91356

5. Phone Number of premise taken to Animal Clinic [redacted]

6. Capture location of bat:  
 Home (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  Garage  
 Business (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  
 Public place (circle one: INDOORS or OUTDOORS)  
 Other

7. Time of capture or pickup unknown

8. Method used to capture bat  
 put in cup and taken to vet clinic where it was held overnight. Picked up next day at about noon. Alive in morning.

9. State of bat when captured (check one)  Live or  Dead

10. Did any people or animals have potential physical contact with bat?  Yes  No  
 Explain: none reported, but don't know exact location where it was found

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

> All bats submitted to animal shelters must be reported to the Health Department immediately.  
 > Please FAX all information to (562) 401-7112  
 > Fill out as much information as possible.  
 > DO NOT DECAPITATE specimen.  
 > DO NOT FREEZE specimen.

1. Bat Impound # [redacted] Date 08/31/15  
 Shelter [redacted] ACO [redacted]  
 Phone Number [redacted]

2. Name of person who captured bat [redacted]

3. Name of owner/business where bat was found [redacted]

4. Address (where found) [redacted]  
 Phone Number of premise [redacted]

5. Capture location of bat  Home  Garage  Business  Outdoors  
 Other BARN, STUCK ON FLY TRAP.  
 Time of capture or pickup 0730AM

6. Method used to capture bat SNAKE TONGUES

1. State of bat when captured (check one)  Live or  Dead

2. Did any people or animals have any physical contact with bat?  Yes  No  
 If so, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Addresses: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Rcv 10/07 kdf

**Was this bat alive? Dead?  
 Was there any exposure to pets/people?  
 Do we need rush testing?**

## 1. Protects people from rabies

- Low rabies risk from local dogs/cats does not mean no risk
  - Bats can give rabies to local dogs & cats (see skunk from 2014)
- High rabies risk from bats
- Rabies is deadly once symptoms start
- We have a short window to administer life-saving treatment

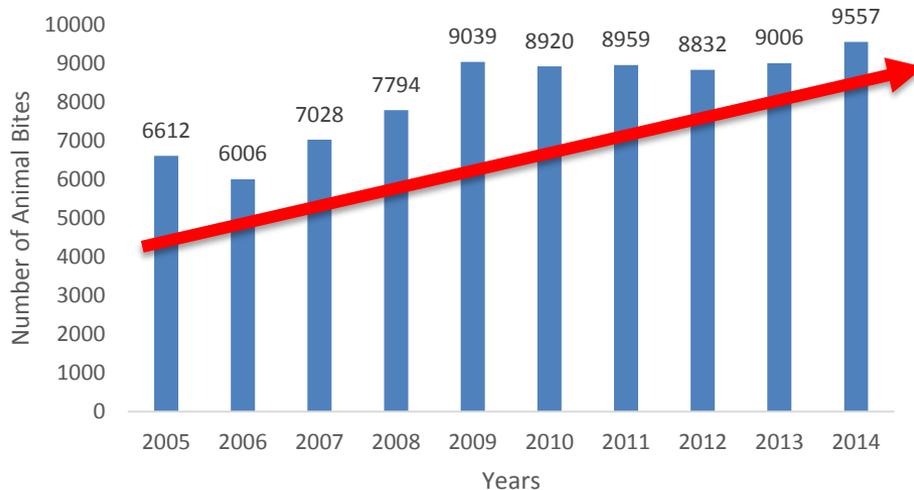
## 2. Understand bites in LA Co.

- Data on who, when, where & how people get bitten
- Find ways to reduce the numbers of bites



# Local bite data – Number of reports

Trend of Animal Bites in Los Angeles County:  
2005-14



**VPH receives and follows up on  
over 9,000 bites each year**

...

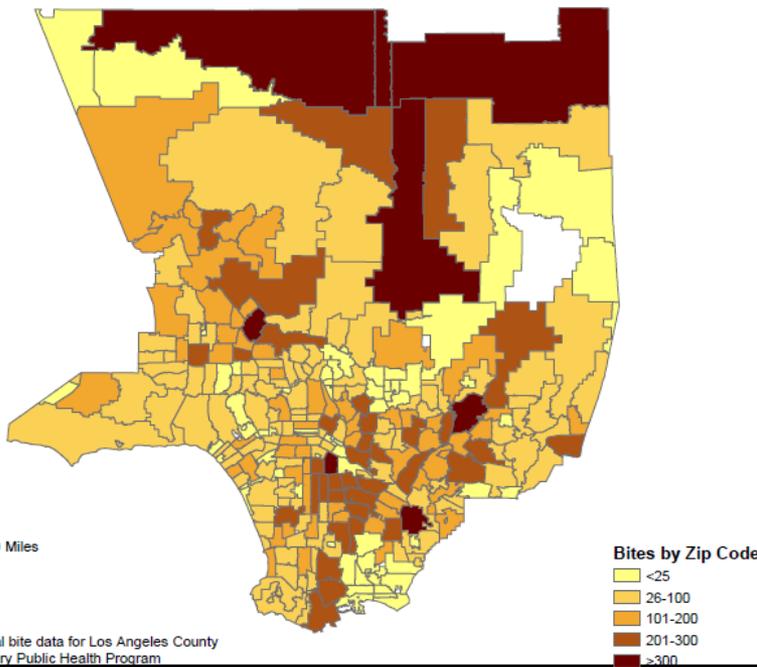
**And it's going up!**

**Table 2 Who Reported Animal Bites  
in Los Angeles County, 2009**

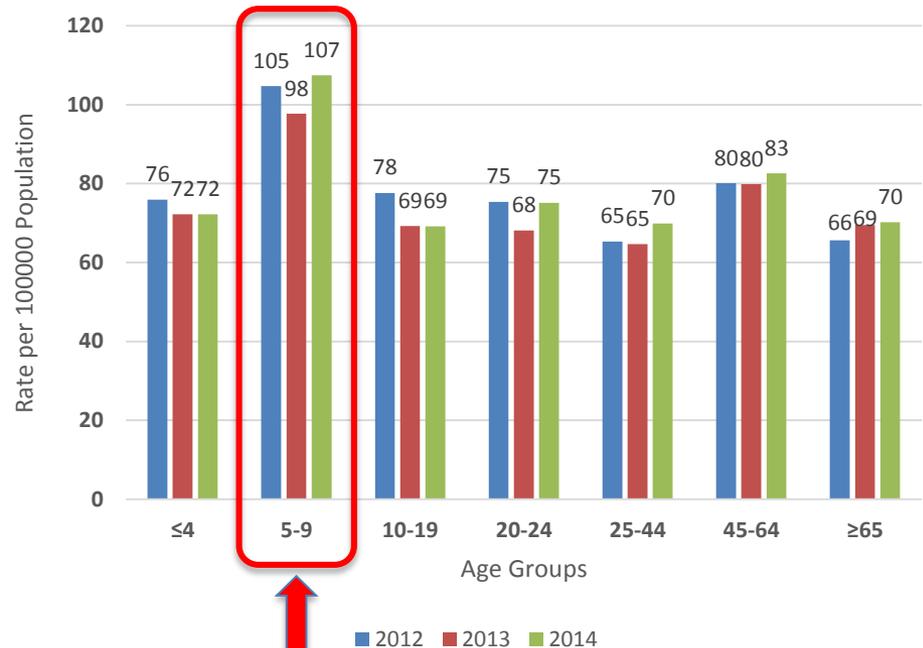
Reporting Source	%
Hospital/Medical	46%
Animal Control	45%
Vet Clinic/Hospital	3%
Private Party	2%
School	1%
Other	3%

**Animal Control contributes to  
almost half of the bite reports  
received**

Distribution of Dog Bites in Los Angeles County by Zip Code: 2012-14



Rate of Animal Bite by Age Distribution:  
LAC 2012-14



**Children ages 5-9 are the most common age group bitten by pets**

## PART 3:

# Bite quarantines & rabies testing

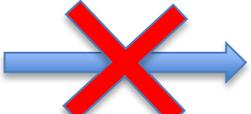


- **Why are quarantines done?**
  - 2 scenarios

<i>1. Animal bites to humans</i>	<i>2. Pets bitten by wildlife</i>
Ensure the biting animal <u>did not shed rabies</u> (in saliva) at the time of the bite	Monitor the pet victim of the bite <u>for signs of rabies</u> down the line

- **Can bite quarantines be done...**
  - ...at the pet's home? **YES**
  - ...at the shelter? **YES**
  - ...at a vet clinic? **YES**
- **Is it ok to transfer a quarantine...**
  - ...from the pet's home to a shelter? **YES**
  - ...from a shelter to a vet clinic? **YES – with VPH approval**
  - ...from a shelter to a pet's home? **NO**
- **Transferring a quarantine**
  - Bite quarantines **CANNOT** be transferred from a place of higher security to lower security



**Shelter (higher security)**  **Home (lower security)**

- **When does a bite quarantine start?**
  - When you receive a quarantine notice from VPH **NO**
  - Immediately after the bite **YES**
  - On the next business day **NO**

## *Bite quarantine start date*

Quarantines start  
**IMMEDIATELY**  
after a bite

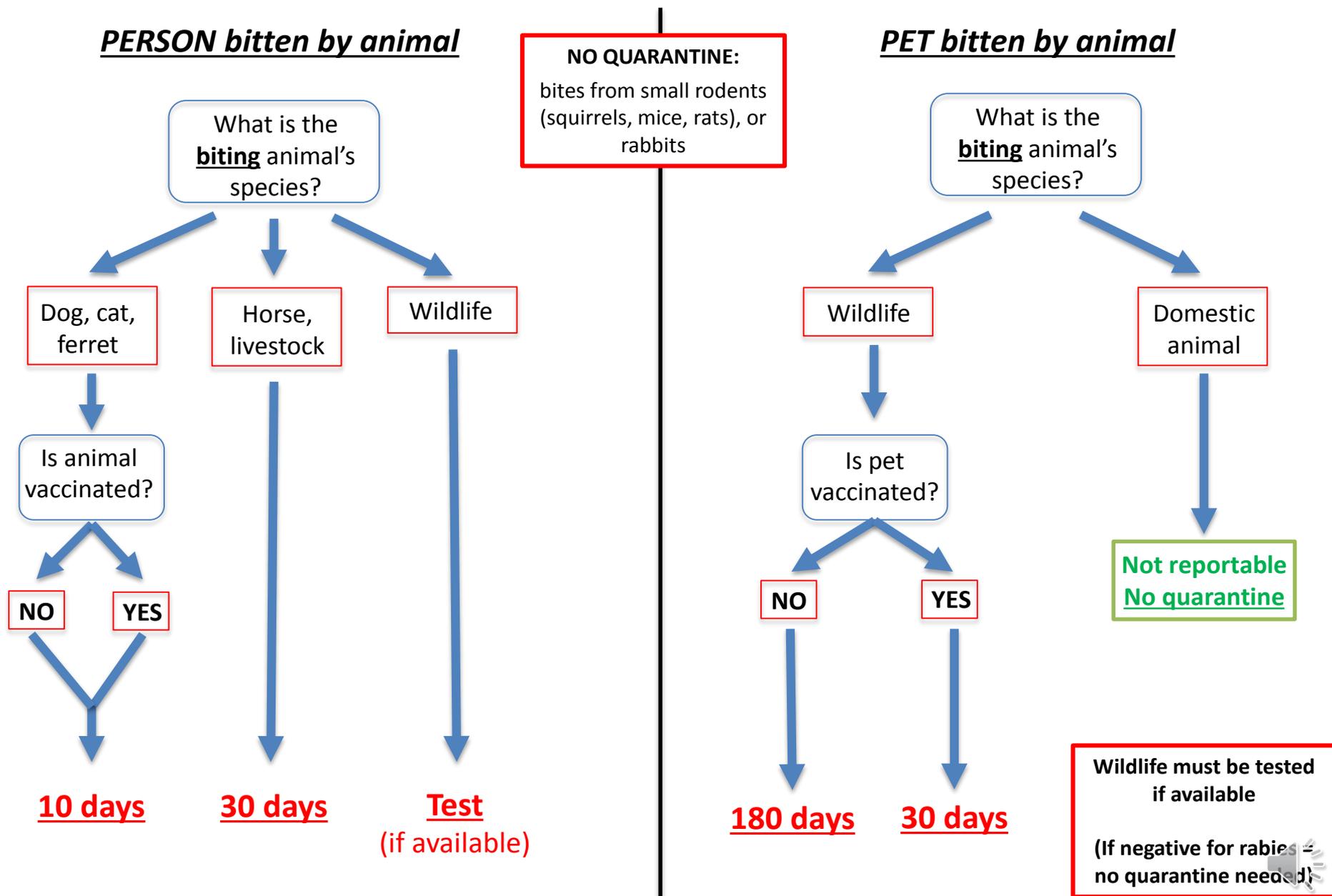
Receiving and processing bite reports may take time

- **Bite quarantines last:**
  - 10 days? **YES**
  - 30 days? **YES**
  - 180 days? **YES**

**Aha! Trick question!**  
**All answers are right!**
- **Note – Quarantine lengths are expressed as FULL days**
  - E.g. If a dog bite occurred on 10/08/2015 at 11am → quarantine lasts until 10/19/2015

10/08/2015 does not count as full quarantine day

# Animal quarantine lengths made easy



- **Home quarantines**
  - VPH inspectors contact biting animal owner
  - Implement quarantine through phone/mail (low risk)
- **Shelter quarantines**
  - Quarantines may be done at shelter if:
    - Bite occurred at shelter
    - Animal was confiscated by Animal Control
  - VPH visually inspects quarantines at shelter 2x/week



- If any of the following occurs:
  - Animal under quarantine is sick
  - Animal under quarantine is  euthanized/dies
  - Animal under quarantine is impounded



**Contact VPH as soon as possible**

**213-989-7060**

- **What needs to be tested for rabies:**
  - *Law: any animal under quarantine that is euthanized/dies*
  - *Wildlife that bit a person/pet*
  - *Bats found:*
    - In people's homes
    - Dead/dying on the ground
    - With potential contact to pets & people
    - With abnormal behavior (e.g. out during the day, on the ground,...)

- **Tracking down the person bitten by animal is key to protecting them against rabies**
- **Information needed for follow-up:**
  - Name & contact of people exposed to animal
  - Address where animal was found
  - Any exposure to people/pets
- **From best to worst:**
  - **Ideal** → Copy of the reporting form attached to specimen
  - **Not OK** → No or illegible paperwork with specimen, wrong impound form

- **Animals may be untestable if:**
  - Not refrigerated
  - Decomposed
  - Lost
  - Not captured

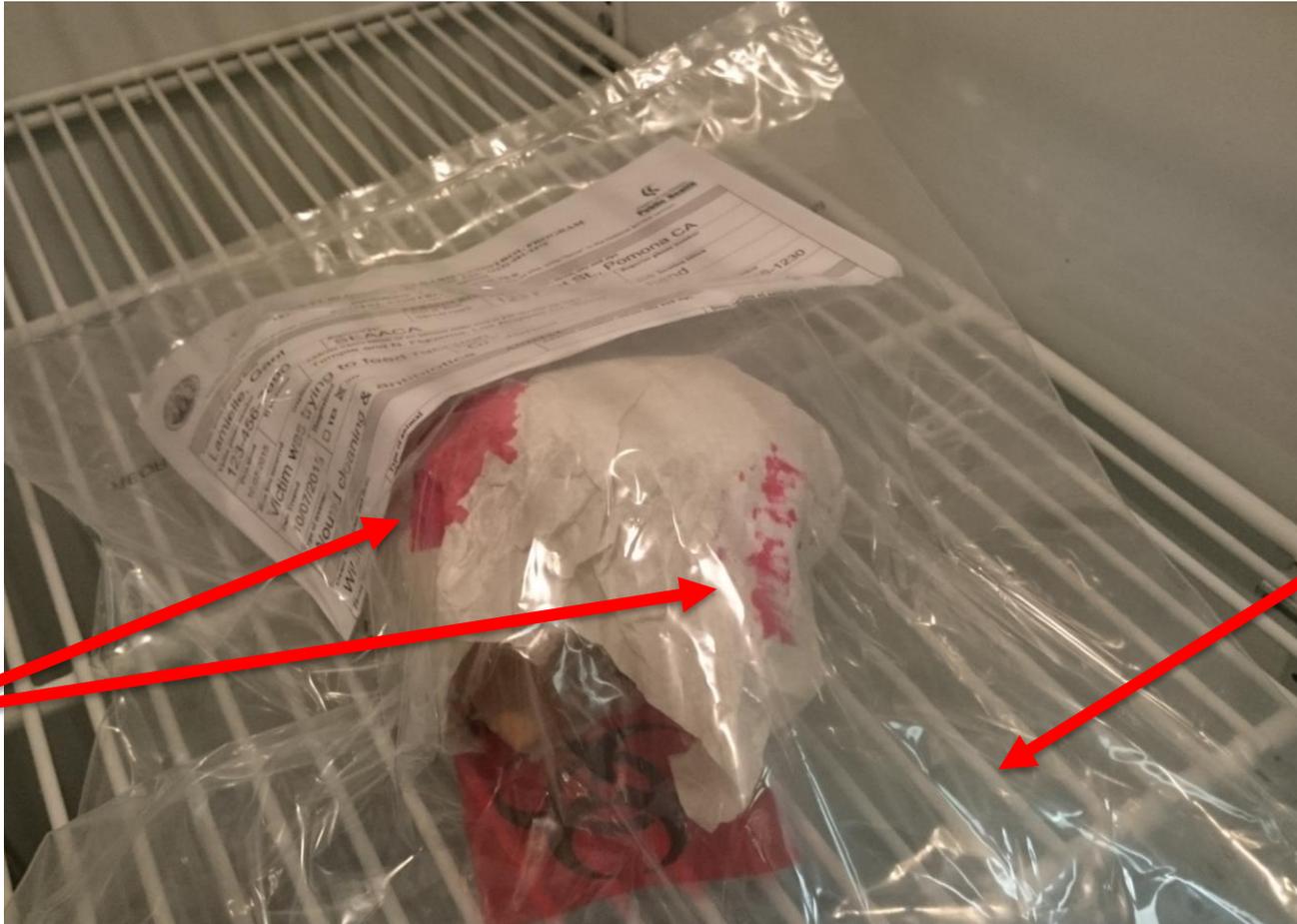
**If a rabies specimen cannot be tested – we have to assume it was POSITIVE**



**Anyone potentially bitten by it will need PEP**

- STEP 1** Dogs/cats/wildlife must be decapitated (full bats ok)
- STEP 2** Specimen must be placed in absorbent paper and double-bagged
- No blood should be visible through the bag
- STEP 3** Place appropriate paperwork with specimen
- STEP 4** Place specimen in VPH fridge (**not** in freezer)
- **Do not** place in other fridges (e.g. where food/vaccines are stored)
  - Check fridge temperature
- STEP 5** Call/fax/email VPH for pick up
- If you notice a specimen in the fridge for a few days, give us a heads up
  - Phone: 213-989-7060, Fax: 213-481-2375
  - Email: [vet@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:vet@ph.lacounty.gov)

# What do you think of this specimen?



**Blood showing!**

**Not double-bagged!**

# What do you think of this specimen?



**Not  
double-  
bagged!**

**No  
absorbent  
paper!**

**No paperwork/submission/impound  
form!**

# What do you think of this specimen?



- ✓ Specimen wrapped in absorbent paper
- ✓ Specimen double-bagged
- ✓ Reporting form is attached

- **What can we do to improve VPH's collaboration with animal shelters?**
  - What is working?
  - What is not working?
  - Tips for better communication/workflow?

**Let us know! Talk to:**

- VPH Inspectors
- Gaël Lamielle, Professional Collaboration Veterinarian

213-989-7060; [vet@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:vet@ph.lacounty.gov)

- Interested in learning more? We can come back and talk about many subjects!
  - Animal diseases around you (parvo, distemper, etc)!
  - West Nile virus in birds!
  - Animal importations!
  - And much more...
- Feel free to contact us with any question!



**Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**  
**Veterinary Public Health Program**

313 N. Figueroa St., Room 1127, Los Angeles CA 90012

Phone: 213-989-7060; Fax: 213-481-2375; Email: [vet@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:vet@ph.lacounty.gov)