

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: (213) 288-7060

Monday-Friday 8am -5pm

Online: Fill out and submit reporting form at

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.