PROTOCOL

FOR DOGS, CATS, FERRETS, OR LIVESTOCK POSSIBLY EXPOSED TO RABIES



Dog, cat, ferret or livestock exposed ¹
to
bat or other wild animal (mammal)



Exposed dog/cat/ferret/livestock has current rabies vaccination ^{2, 3}

- 1. Revaccinate immediately, and
- 2. Have owner observe for 45 days

Euthanize and test dog/cat/ferret/livestock for rabies if it becomes ill, with signs suggestive of rabies, or dies during observation period

- [1] If questions of exposure:
 - First call your local health department and animal control offices.
 - 2. If they are unavailable, *during business hours*, call the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) at (800) 292-3939 **OR** the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) at (517) 335-8165.
 - 3. After 5:00 PM and weekends, call MDARD at (517) 373-0440 OR MDCH at (517) 335-9030.
- [2] An animal is considered "currently" vaccinated against rabies if a licensed veterinarian has administered a vaccine product approved for use in that species within 12 months if it was the animals FIRST vaccination (First vaccination is by 4 months of age for dogs; 12 weeks for ferrets; cats are not required to be vaccinated by Michigan law, but is strongly recommended due to the predatory nature of cats). For SUBSEQUENT rabies vaccinations, current means administered by a veterinarian within 1 or 3 years from previous vaccination, depending on vaccine used.
- [3] Livestock: Consideration should be given to vaccinating livestock that are particularly valuable. Animals that have frequent contact with humans (e.g., in petting zoos, fairs and other public exhibitions) and horses traveling interstate should be currently vaccinated.

Exposed dog/cat/ferret/livestock does NOT have current rabies vaccination

Test bat or other wild animal.

If animal is NOT available,
must proceed as if positive



Vaccinate dog/cat/ ferret/livestock against rabies

Immediately euthanize exposed dog/cat/ ferret/livestock

Results Negative

If owner refuses euthanasia of animal:

- 1. Advise owner of potential health risks
- 2. Strict quarantine for 6 months
- Euthanize and test dog/cat/ferret/livestock for rabies if it becomes ill, with signs suggestive of rabies, or dies during confinement period
- 4. Vaccination may be administered at beginning of confinement, or at month 5 of confinement