MICHIGAN RABIES ASSESSMENT:
WHEN AN ANIMAL HAS BEEN EXPOSED

**DOG/CAT**

Animal Species Exposed

- Exposed dog/cat has documentation of current OR previous rabies vaccination

**FERRET/LIVESTOCK**

- Exposed ferret/livestock has documentation of current rabies vaccination

**Is the biting animal available for testing?**

- **YES**
  - 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.

- **NO**

**Exposed dog/cat has documentation of current OR previous rabies vaccination**

- **YES**
  - Vaccinate dog/cat/ferret/livestock against rabies

- **NO**

**Exposed ferret/livestock has documentation of current rabies vaccination**

- **YES**
  - Send to MDHHS Laboratory for rabies testing
  
  **Results**
  - Positive
    - Vaccinate dog/cat/ferret/livestock against rabies
  - Negative

- **NO**

**Immedately euthanize exposed dog/cat/ferret/livestock**

* If owner refuses euthanasia, see options below

**OPTION 1**

- Within 96 hours of exposure: Rabies vaccine booster, and strict quarantine for 4 months for dogs and cats, 6 months for ferrets and livestock.
- Euthanize and test dog/cat/ferret/livestock for rabies if it becomes ill, with signs suggestive of rabies, or dies during quarantine period.

**OPTION 2**

(Cats and dogs only) Consult the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development regarding the possibility of using serologic monitoring for rabies antibodies.

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[1] For questions about exposure:
1. 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 Health and Human Services (MDHHS) at (517) 335-8165.
3. After 5:00 PM and weekends, call MDARD at (517) 373-0440 OR MDHHS at (517) 335-9030.

[2] Current vaccination means administered by a veterinarian within 1 or 3 years from previous vaccination, depending on vaccine used. An animal is considered “previously” vaccinated against rabies if the owner has documentation showing that a licensed veterinarian has ever administered a vaccine product approved for use in that species.

[3] **Ferret/Livestock:** An animal is considered “currently” vaccinated against rabies if a licensed veterinarian has administered a vaccine product approved for use in that species within 1 or 3 years, depending on the vaccine used. 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.

www.michigan.gov/rabies
**MICHIGAN RABIES ASSESSMENT:**
*WHEN ANIMALS HAVE BITTEN PEOPLE*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WILD ANIMAL (MAMMAL)</th>
<th>OWNED DOG/CAT/FERRET (Vaccinated or Unvaccinated)</th>
<th>STRAY DOG/CAT/FERRET 6 (Vaccination status unknown)</th>
<th>OTHER DOMESTIC MAMMAL 5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Euthanize and test if appropriate species 8</td>
<td>Is animal showing signs of rabies?</td>
<td>Is animal showing signs of rabies?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does owner want animal?</td>
<td>Euthanize and test</td>
<td>Euthanize and test</td>
<td>OPTION 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Confine animal for 10 days from the day of the bite *</td>
<td>Test if animal becomes ill, with signs suggestive of rabies, or dies during confinement</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**OPTION 1**
Confine animal for 10 days from the day of bite. If it remains healthy, it is considered rabies-free at the end of confinement. *

**OPTION 2**
Confine animal for 10 days from the day of bite. If it remains healthy, it is considered rabies-free at the end of confinement. *

Test if animal becomes ill, with signs suggestive of rabies, or dies during confinement

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*At the end of 10 day confinement, a healthy animal with unknown or no rabies vaccination history should be given initial rabies vaccine dose.

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[4] Regardless of rabies vaccination status. Though rabies in animals vaccinated against rabies is rare, vaccinated animals can still develop rabies.

[5] Livestock and exhibit animals that bite people are assessed individually (a separate zoo animal rabies flowchart is available @ www.michigan.gov/rabies). In all instances of other domestic animal species, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) at (517) 335-8165 OR notify the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) at (800) 292-3939.

[6] State law requires that all stray dogs be reported to animal control within 48 hours of a person taking possession of the animal. Ensure animal has been reported.

[7] Contact local animal control office where the animal is located for required hold times.

[8] The animals listed above are rarely infected with rabies and have not been known to transmit rabies to humans. These species will not be tested except by special arrangement with MDHHS at (517) 335-8165. After 5:00 PM and on weekends, dial (517) 335-9030.