

Animal Owners' Responsibilities

In Ohio, when an animal bite occurs, there are certain responsibilities animal owners must comply with to assure their pet was free from rabies infection and is current on required rabies vaccinations. These include:



- (1) The quarantine of the animal on your premises or with a veterinary clinic located within Wyandot County for a minimum of ten days from the date the bite occurred,
- (2) After the ten day quarantine period, the animal must be seen by a veterinarian to assure the animal is in good health and current on rabies vaccination, and
- (3) Forward a completed copy of the veterinarian certificate to the Wyandot County Health Dept.



RABIES!



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Wyandot County Health Department

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Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351

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www.wyandothealth.com

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Wyandot County Health Department



Animal Bites... What you need to know.



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Quarantine

In Ohio when a human is bitten by a dog, cat, or ferret, the animal must be quarantined. The quarantine period starts from the time the bite occurs. "Quarantine" means to confine to an area where no other animal can come in contact with the animal, such as in a garage, fenced in enclosure, basement, etc. The animal should only be taken out on a leash to relieve itself by a responsible person who is 18 years of age or older and who can handle the animal. This is to assure that the animal does not come in contact with any other animal and contract rabies after it had been involved in the initial bite.

The animal must remain in quarantine for at least



Animal can not come in contact with any other animal until quarantine has been released.

ten days. This ten day period will allow the animal to show signs of rabies if it were infected at the time the bite occurred. At the end of the ten day period, the animal can only be released from quarantine after it has been examined by a veterinarian

and is up-to-date on its rabies vaccination.

Wild Animals

In 2010, bats, raccoons, and skunks have all been found in Ohio that have tested positive for rabies. If you come in contact with the saliva of one of these wild animals, wash the wound immediately with lots of soap and water and then contact your physician. Capture the animal, but only if it can be done safely.



Never try to pet a wild animal.

If the animal can be captured, contain it to an area where it will not come in contact with any other person or animal. The animal will need to be euthanized before it can be sent for testing.

Rabies Testing

The Ohio Department of Health will test certain animals for the presence of rabies. Testing an animal that has been involved with a bite will help eliminate the need for the bitten person to get a shot of rabies immune globulin and a series of five shots of vaccine. Shipment for rabies testing can only be done Monday through Thursday and results are usually received within one week.

In order for an animal to be tested, it must have come in contact with a person or in the case of a bat, found in a room with a person who has been sleeping.

Animal Preparation

If the animal is captured, contact the Wyandot County Health Department immediately so it can be tested. If it is outside of normal business hours, you can either contact the emergency after hours phone number at 419-294-3852 or double bag the euthanized animal and place it in refrigerated conditions. Be sure not to let the animal become frozen. This could damage the brain and not allow for proper testing.

The animal head must be removed for testing. Be careful not to damage the head of the animal since the only part of the animal that is needed for testing is the brain. If it is any animal besides a bat, the head will need to be detached from the body and only the head shipped for testing. Veterinarians may be able to help with the safe re-



Never touch a wild animal, even if it is found dead, without a barrier.

moval of the head for testing purposes. If it is a bat that has bitten, the entire animal can be submitted.

For non-wild animals, if the animal dies while in the quarantine period, it must be tested for rabies. Contact the Wyandot County Health Department immediately so that it can be submitted.