

ANIMAL BITES & RABIES RISK

Recommendations for Los Angeles County*

When the biting animal is available for evaluation by quarantine or testing, the results may determine if the animal is rabid and the bite victim needs Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP). The species of the animal and its health may also help determine rabies risk.



HIGH RISK OF RABIES

Bats / Abnormally Acting Wildlife / Foreign Animals

REPORT BITE TO VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH IMMEDIATELY.

Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is FREQUENTLY indicated.



MODERATE RISK OF RABIES

Sick Local Dogs or Cats / Normally Acting Non-Bat Wildlife

(such as skunks, foxes, raccoons, coyotes, opossums)

Report bite to Veterinary Public Health.

PEP is SOMETIMES indicated.



LOW RISK OF RABIES

Healthy Local Dogs or Cats / Livestock / Horses

Report bite to Veterinary Public Health.

PEP is RARELY indicated.



NOT REPORTABLE

Squirrels / Rabbits / Small Rodents (rats, mice) / Birds / Snakes

Bites from these animals are not reportable because they do not spread rabies.

PEP is NOT indicated.

REPORTING

FAX (Preferred): (213) 481-2375. Download form at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/docs/Forms/BiteFormMed.pdf

Online: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm

Phone: (877) 747-2243 or (213) 989-7060 (Vet Public Health/M-F, 7:30 am-5 pm)

- Always report details about the biting animal, including current location if known.
- Contact Animal Control about injured, sick or loose animals; www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/AnimalControlList.htm

CONSULTATIONS

Consultation regarding rabies risk

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am-5 pm

Veterinary Public Health: (877) 747-2243 or (213) 989-7060 or vet@ph.lacounty.gov

Ask to speak to the Veterinarian On-Duty.

Consultation on individual patient care decisions

Mon-Fri: 7:30 am-5 pm. Consultations also available after-hours for emergencies.

Acute Communicable Disease Control: (213) 240-7941

Ask to speak to the Physician On-Duty

*The rabies risk in Los Angeles County may shift over time. Other counties may have different rabies risks.