

What If I Cannot Find The Animal That Was Involved In The Bite Incident?

The risk of contracting rabies from a domestic animal is probably low enough to forego prophylaxis, **if all the following conditions are present**. However, the clinic and the patient should realize that the risk is not absolutely zero. Consult with physician and public health officials to discuss circumstances in more detail.

1. The animal was not exhibiting signs of rabies at the time of the attack.
2. The owner has proof of current rabies vaccination (especially if it had been vaccinated more than once during its lifetime).
3. The bite was provoked, and
4. The wound was promptly cleansed with soap and water.

What is Post Exposure Prophylaxis or PEP?

Specific medical attention for someone exposed to rabies is called post exposure prophylaxis or **PEP**. In the United States, post exposure prophylaxis consists of a regimen of one dose of immune globulin and five doses of rabies vaccine over a 28-day period. Rabies immune globulin and the first dose of rabies vaccine should be given by your health care provider as soon as possible after exposure. Additional doses of rabies vaccine should be given on days 3, 7, 14, and 28 after the first vaccination. Current vaccines are relatively painless and are given in your arm, like a flu or tetanus vaccine.

First Aide for Dog and Cat Bites

If a dog or cat animal bites you or your child, follow these guidelines:

For minor wounds. Thoroughly wash the wound with soap and water. Apply an antibiotic cream to prevent infection and cover the bite with a clean bandage.

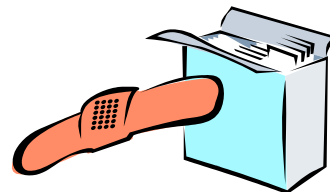
For deep wounds. If the animal bite creates a deep puncture of the skin or the skin is badly torn and bleeding, apply pressure with a clean, dry cloth to stop the bleeding and see your doctor.

For infection. If you notice signs of infection, such as swelling, redness, increased pain or oozing, see your doctor immediately.

For suspected rabies. If you suspect the bite was caused by an animal that might carry rabies — including any wild or domestic animal of unknown immunization status — see your doctor immediately

Doctors recommend getting a tetanus shot every 10 years. If your last one was more than five years ago and your wound is deep or dirty, your doctor may recommend a booster. You should have the booster within 48 hours of the injury.

www.mayoclinic.com/health.first-aid-animal-bites/FA00044



What You Need To Know If You Have Been Bitten By a Dog or Cat



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Wisconsin State Laws Requires Quarantine

Wisconsin State Law (SS 95.21) and the Manitowoc County Code require that any dog or cat which bites a person be quarantined for ten days so that it can be observed for signs of rabies. Note that the information in this brochure applies only to dogs and cats that have bitten a person.

UNVACCINATED Dogs and Cats

The Manitowoc County Code requires that any animal that has bitten or scratched and **did not have a current rabies vaccination at the time of the bite or is of unknown vaccination status** must be impounded at a registered veterinary clinic of the owner's choice at the owner's expense.

By veterinary impoundment it is meant that:

- 1) The animal shall be delivered to an isolation facility **within 24 hours** of the notice date.
- 2) The animal shall not be vaccinated against rabies until after the quarantine is completed.
- 3) The animal shall remain at the isolation facility for a period of 10 days for the purpose of rabies observation.
- 4) The animal shall not be sold or given away to any other party from the time the owner is notified until the quarantine period is complete.
- 5) The animal shall not be destroyed before the 10th day of quarantine, unless ordered by a veterinarian.

VACCINATED Dogs and Cats

The Manitowoc County Code allows an animal that has bitten or scratched to be impounded for a period of ten (10) days on the premises of the owner or caretaker under "strict isolation" upon the determination that the animal is **currently immunized against rabies**. Except for the required veterinary visits, **strict isolation** means:

- 1) Cats shall remain in the house for the entire impoundment period.
 - 2) Dogs shall be confined to the owner's property at all times during the impoundment period. When outside, dogs shall be restrained at all times on the owners property and not allowed to run loose.
 - 3) Contact with the above animals shall be limited to family members during the period of impoundment.
 - 4) The animal shall not be sold or given away to any other party during the impoundment.
 - 5) The animal shall not be destroyed before the 10th day of quarantine, unless ordered by a veterinarian.
- During the 10 day quarantine the dog or cat must be examined by a veterinarian on the first day, the last day, and one intervening day of the observation period. This is the only time the animal may leave the owner's premises.
 - The quarantine may be released if the veterinarian certifies that the animal has exhibited no signs of rabies during the 10 day quarantine period.
 - In the unlikely event that an animal under quarantine does exhibit signs of rabies, state statute requires that the animal be humanely killed and the brain submitted for rabies testing.
 - The 10 day quarantine period ensures that the dog or cat remains available so that it can be observed for signs of rabies.

What is the Purpose of the 10 Day Quarantine?

The 10 day confinement and observation period for dogs and cats that bite humans has stood the test of time as a way to prevent human rabies. This quarantine period avoids the need to destroy the biting dog or cat in order to test its brain for the rabies virus. If the animal remains well during the 10 days, this indicates it did not have the rabies virus in its saliva at the time of the bite, and therefore the bite victim does not have to receive a series of shots to prevent rabies.

What is Rabies?

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals most often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The vast majority of rabies cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) each year occur in wild animals like raccoons, skunks, bats, and foxes. Rabies virus infects the brain and spinal cord and ultimately causes death. Early symptoms of rabies in humans are nonspecific, consisting of fever, headache, and general malaise. As the disease progresses, neurological symptoms appear and may include insomnia, anxiety, confusion, slight or partial paralysis, hallucinations, agitation, hyper salivation, difficulty swallowing, and hydrophobia (fear of water). Death usually occurs within days of the onset of symptoms.