

Introduction

This manual is intended to provide current information on rabies biology, transmission, pathogenesis, and prevention in humans and animals. It also focuses on rabies control and bite management by outlining treatment protocols for humans and animals that have been potentially exposed to the rabies virus. The manual should serve as a guide for physicians and other healthcare providers to determine rabies exposures, recommended pre- and post-exposure rabies prophylaxis, viral shedding, and information on human rabies vaccines.

Veterinarians, animal control personnel and law enforcement agencies should find the manual useful for guidance on management of domestic animals that have been exposed to wildlife or other potentially rabid animals, proper quarantine protocols, and proper vaccination requirements. Altogether, this manual should serve as an educational tool to prevent and control rabies.

This manual is based primarily on a compilation of recommendations based mostly from the following:

1. Human Rabies Prevention – United States, 2008, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr57e507.pdf>)
2. 2008 NASPHV Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/rr/rr5702.pdf>)
3. CDC Rabies Page (<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies>)
4. Alabama Statutes and Legislative Code
5. *Red Book: 2006 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases*. 27th Edition, American Academy of Pediatrics.
6. The helpful guidance of experts in the field of rabies research and veterinary medicine.
7. Information from similar manuals prepared by the states of Georgia, New York, Virginia, California, Maine, New Jersey, Texas, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, and their contributions are gratefully acknowledged.