

- a. The animal is currently vaccinated against rabies.
- b. The exposure was a result of a provoked incident. A provoked incident occurs when a person creates a situation such that an expected reaction of the animal is to bite or attack (e.g., feeding, grabbing, threatening, etc). An unprovoked incident occurs when an animal bites or attacks for no apparent reason.
- c. The owner or person responsible for the animal agrees to have the animal examined by a licensed veterinarian 10 days following the exposure.
- d. The animal is kept in an enclosed area (e.g., house, pen) in a designated confinement area (e.g., one room of a house or isolated kennel facility) to avoid interaction with people and animals other than a single caretaker.
- e. If during the period of home quarantine the animal dies or exhibits clinical signs suggestive of rabies as determined by a licensed veterinarian, the owner or person responsible for the animal shall immediately contact the county health department. The health officer shall notify the person exposed and his/her physician so the physician can determine if post-exposure treatment is indicated.
- f. The owner is responsible for securing the animal during the period of home quarantine. Should the animal expose a human or animal and/or if the animal escapes or disappears from home quarantine, the owner or person responsible for the animal shall immediately notify the county health department.

Your local county health department may have additional guidelines.

IF YOUR ANIMAL IS SHOWING NO CLINICAL SIGNS OF RABIES AT THE END OF THE 10-DAY QUARANTINE, IT WILL BE RELEASED TO YOU PROVIDED IT IS CURRENT ON RABIES VACCINE.

The 10-day confinement and observation period for dogs, cats, and ferrets that bite humans avoids the need to destroy the animal in order to test for the rabies virus.

**For additional information, contact:
Alabama Department of Public Health
Bureau of Environmental Services
RSA Tower, Suite 1250, 201 Monroe Street
Montgomery, AL 36130**

**P. 334.206.5375
F. 334.206.5788**

**For more information on rabies, contact
Dee W. Jones, DVM
1.800.338.8374
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ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

RABIES PROGRAM

HOME QUARANTINE GUIDELINES

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Under state law, you are being required to quarantine your animal for 10 days. The quarantine period is necessary for observation of any clinical signs of rabies infection in your animal.

The Code of Alabama 1975, Section 3-7A-9 requires any dog, cat or ferret that has exposed a person to be quarantined under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian for a period of ten (10) days following the date of the incident. Exposure is defined as suspected or confirmed contact of saliva with a break in the skin or with any mucous membrane (e.g. eyes, mouth, nose, etc). Home quarantine may be permitted at the discretion of the health officer only if all of conditions (a-f) are met: _____



RABIES QUARANTINE FACT SHEET

My animal only scratched someone. Why do I have to quarantine?

Rabies is a viral infection transmitted from the saliva of an infected animal. The spread of rabies is usually through bite wounds, but may also occur through scratches or any salivary contact with a mucous membrane. Scratches are considered a risk because dogs, cats or ferrets may have licked their paws immediately before the scratch.

My pet appears healthy. Why do I have to quarantine?

Behavioral changes that could cause an animal to bite can be the first signs of rabies infections. Other apparent clinical signs of rabies infection may not develop for a few days.

Why is the quarantine 10 days?

As the rabies virus multiplies in the brain, it travels to the salivary glands of the animal. At this point, your pet is able to spread the disease. Research has shown that once the rabies virus is in the saliva of your pet, it will show signs of rabies or die within 10 days. Therefore if your animal remains entirely well for 10 days, the rabies virus was not in the saliva at the time of the bite or scratch. There would be no risk to the exposed party.

Why must my pet be tied, kenneled, or kept indoors?

Rabies in humans is 100% preventable if appropriate preventative treatment is given before the virus invades the central nervous system. The secure confinement must prevent escape and ensures that the animal can be readily observed so that any changes can be reported immediately to the health authorities.

My animal is vaccinated. Why do I have to quarantine?

Although a fully-vaccinated dog, cat, or ferret is unlikely to become infected with rabies, rare cases have been reported.

My cat is indoors all the time. Why do I have to vaccinate?

If your cat were to get loose, it may be exposed to rabies by another animal. Occasionally bats infected with rabies can make their way into the living spaces of houses. Also, state law requires that dogs, cats, and ferrets be vaccinated. In the United States, rabid cats have outnumbered rabid dogs in 8 out of the last 10 years. Additionally, a currently vaccinated animal may be eligible for home-quarantine should it bite, scratch, or otherwise potentially expose someone thus, saving the animal owner the expense of veterinary confinement.

What will the veterinarian exam involve?

There is no single symptom for rabies. Your veterinarian will look for many different signs, including bad behavior or neurological changes. **A CHANGE IN "EXPECTED" BEHAVIOR IS THE MOST CONSISTENT SIGN OF RABIES.**

**For Additional Information contact your local
County Health Department**

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