

# RABIES POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS GUIDE

## SAN BENITO COUNTY

Person was bitten by, or their mucous membrane or non-intact skin was in contact with saliva from a possibly rabid animal

- Treat Wound
- Assess circumstances of exposure
- Report bite to Animal Control or local Police Department

Was the Animal captured?

Yes

No

Is the animal a healthy domestic animal?

Yes

No

Quarantine dogs or cats or ferrets for 10 days, livestock for 14 days of observation

Did the animal become ill or die during quarantine?

Yes

No

Is the animal a skunk, bat, raccoon, fox or other wild animal at risk for rabies or a sick domestic animal?

- Sacrifice animal
- Rabies test done at State Health Department
- May consult with local Health Department

Is the test positive?

No

Yes

**No Treatment Needed**

- Give rabies immune globulin (RIG) at 20 iu/kg according to current ACIP recommendations and
- Give five 1.0 ml doses of rabies vaccine intramuscularly in deltoid region on days 0, 3, 7, 14, & 28

Was the animal domestic or wild?

Wild \*  
Consider rabid

Domestic  
Was the attack provoked?  
Did the animal appear healthy?

No

Yes

**Consult with local Health Department 831-637-5367**

- Discuss lower risk w/ patient
- Determine if RIG and vaccine needed
- Consult w/ Health Dept. if needed

Note: Preimmunized individuals do not receive RIG, but do receive 2 doses of rabies vaccine intramuscularly at 0 & 3 days.

\* Bites from squirrels, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rats, mice, other rodents, rabbits and hares almost never call for rabies prophylaxis. However, each case should be reviewed to ensure that abnormal behavior or unusual circumstances are not involved with the animal, as any mammal can develop rabies.

Detain and observe for 10 days any healthy-appearing dog, cat or ferret known to have bitten a person (unwanted animals may be euthanized immediately and examined for rabies by fluorescent microscopy); dogs, cats or ferrets showing suspicious signs of rabies should be sacrificed and tested for rabies. If the biting animal were infective at the time of the bite, signs of rabies will usually follow within 4-7 days, followed by death. All wild mammals that have bitten a person should be sacrificed immediately and the brain be examined for evidence of rabies.

Information on Human Rabies  
Incubation Period – Usually 3-8 weeks, rarely as short as 9 days or as long as 7 years; depends on the severity of the wound, site of the wound in relation to the richness of the nerve supply and its distance from the brain, amount and strain of virus introduced, protection provided by clothing and other factors. Prolonged incubation periods have occurred in prepubertal individuals.