

## ***Policy #17***

Subject: Rabies Protocol

Effective Date: March 2000

Reference: Standard Operating Procedures

Distribution: All Personnel

### **DOG BITE**

1. Advise person to contact their MD.
2. Verify dog's rabies vaccine date.
3. If dog is healthy, confine and observe dog for 10 days. At the end of 10 days, dog should be examined by a vet before release from confinement. During this 10-day period, if dog develops signs or symptoms of illness, a vet should examine the dog. ***(It is up to the discretion of the Officer or ACO to decide if the owner is reliable to confine the dog, if not the dog should be quarantined in a kennel.)***
4. Notify person exposed at the end of the ten days that the dog is healthy.

### **DOG BITE, STRAY OR SICK DOG**

1. Advise person to contact their MD
2. Quarantine dog and make arrangements for the dog to be examined by a vet as soon as possible. If the dog is exhibiting signs and symptoms of rabies, it needs to be euthanized and tested at the state lab. ***(# Refer to arrangements for testing)***.
3. After the veterinary examination, if dog is healthy, kennel quarantines the dog for 10 days, if it is a stray, and observe for signs and symptoms of rabies.

### **CAT BITE OR SCRATCH**

1. Advise person to contact their MD
2. Verify cat's rabies vaccine date
3. If cat is healthy, confine and observe cat for 10 days. At the end of 10 days, cat should be examined by a vet before release from confinement. During this 10 days period, if the cat develops signs or symptoms of illness, a vet should examine the cat. ***(it is up to the discretion of the omce ~ ACO to decide if the owner is reliable to confine the cat, if not, the cat should be quarantined in a kennel. If the cat is left with the owner, the cat must be confined to the inside of the house)***
4. Notify person exposed at the end of the ten days that the cat is healthy.

### **STRAY CAT BITE OR SCRATCH**

1. Advise person to contact their MD
2. Capture cat and bring to the vet. If a person claims responsibility for the cat, the cat should be kennel quarantined and observed for ten days at the expense of their new owner. If no one claims responsibility, the cat should be euthanized and tested for rabies at the state lab. ***(#refer to arrangements for testing)***
3. Notify the person exposed of the outcome.

**IF A PERSON IS BITTEN OR SCRATCHED BY A STRAY DOG OR CAT AND THE ANIMAL CANNOT BE FOUND. THE PERSON SHOULD BE ADVISED TO CONTACT THEIR MD.**

**FOR RABIES CONSULTATION A PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE IS AVAILABLE ON WEEKDAYS AT 271-4496. AFTER HOURS AND ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS CALL 1-800-852-3345 EXT. 5300 AND ASK FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE ON CALL FOR RABIES.**

**ARRANGEMENTS FOR TESTING**

1. All animals brought in for rabies testing need to be approved by the NH Division of Public Health Services. During the week days from the hours of 8:00 am to 4:30 p.m., call 271-4496 and ask to speak with the Public Health Nurse Coordinator on call for rabies. On evenings, weekends and holidays, call the state operator at 1-800-852-3345~ extension 5300 and ask to speak to the Public Health Nurse Coordinator on call for rabies.
2. Animals approved for rabies testing during weekdays can be brought into the rabies lab between 8:00am and 3:30pm. On Saturdays, special arrangements can be made for an animal to be dropped off at the Police Dispatch at State Police Headquarters, but it is important that this be coordinated through the Public Health Nurse Coordinator. No rabies testing is done on Sundays and Holidays.
3. Please fill out the public health form to accompany the specimen and the Officer bringing the animal in will be called with the testing results.

**WILD ANIMAL INCIDENTS OR EXPOSURE**

1. Contact Fish and Game
2. If human contact, consult with the NH Division of Public Health Services with the Public Health Nurse Coordinator on call at 271-4496 or after hours at 1-800-852-3345 ext. 5300.

**DOMESTIC ANIMAL EXPOSURE TO KNOWN RABID ANIMAL**

1. Confirm rabies vaccine date.
2. If the dog or cat is up-to-date on their rabies vaccine, it should be immediately given a rabies booster vaccine. *(If it is not up-to-date, refer to unvaccinated dog or cat.)*
3. If the dog or cat is up-to-date on rabies vaccine, it is a state law (RSA 436:106 II a,b &c) that the animal is to be quarantined for a period of 90 days. *(it is up to the discretion of the Officer or AGO to decide if the owner is reliable to confine the dog or cat at their home. The animal should only be cared for by one person and should not come in contact with other people or animals. If the owners are unreliable, the dog or cat should be kennel quarantined at the owner's expense)* During this time if the animal develops signs of rabies or becomes ill, a vet should immediately examine it.
3. At the end of 90 days, the animal should be examined by a vet prior to the release of quarantine to ensure that the animal is healthy.

## UNVACCINATED DOMESTIC ANIMAL EXPOSURE TO KNOWN RABID ANIMAL

1. Confirm that animal is not vaccinated or is not current on its vaccination.
2. It is a state law (RSA 436:106 I a & b) that unvaccinated dogs and cats ,exposed to a known rabid animal, be immediately euthanized. According to this law, the owner is responsible for this expense.
3. If the owner is unwilling to destroy the dog or cat, he or she must pay for a strict isolation of the animal in a kennel under veterinary supervision for 6 months. Thirty days prior to its release, the animal should receive a rabies vaccine. Any illness in the dog or cat during confinement shall require a veterinary examination and, if indicated, the animal shall be euthanized and tested for rabies.

**ANIMAL BITE REPORT**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

DATE OF INCIDENT:

TIME OF INCIDENT:

OFFICER TAKING INITIAL INFORMATION:

DATE OF REPORT:

**VICTIM INFORMATION**

NAME OF VICTIM:

ADDRESS OF VICTIM:

PHONE # OF VICTIM:

INJURY SUSTAINED:(scratch/nip/bite/laceration/other)

DETAILS OF MEDICAL TREATMENT:

**BITING ANIMAL INFORMATION**

TYPE OF ANIMAL:(dog/cat/bat/etc...)

BREED OF ANIMAL:

ANIMAL'S NAME:

AGE (pup, juvenile, adult, geriatric)

SEX OF ANIMAL:

ANIMAL'S BEHAVIOR AT TIME OF OFFICER'S REPORT:(friendly/aggressive/sickly)

OWNER'S NAME:

OWNER'S ADDRESS:

OWNER'S PHONE:

RABIES NUMBER:

RABIES DATE:

RABIES EXPIRATION:

VETERINARIAN:

## DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT:

ACTION TAKEN:(house quarantine kennel quarantine rabies testing/other details)

### **436:105 Impoundment of Rabies Suspects continued:**

It shall be the responsibility of the owner for any expense for euthanizing the dog and for preparing the head for shipment to the public health laboratory. If the dog is a stray, the rabies control authority shall be responsible for the expense, and such expense shall be paid from fees collected under RSA 466:4 and 466:6.

II. Any, apparently healthy dog, not vaccinated in accordance with RSA 436:100, or whose vaccination status is unknown, which has bitten any person and caused a puncture of the skin, or which has caused a non-bite exposure of such person, shall be seized and impounded under the supervision of the local authorities for a period of not less than 10 days. If, upon examination by a licensed veterinarian, the dog has no signs of rabies at the end of said impoundment, it may be released to the owner or, in the case of a stray, it shall be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws. A licensed veterinarian shall evaluate any illness in the dog during confinement or before release. If signs suggestive of rabies develop, the dog shall be euthanized and the head sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Division of Public Health Services. The owner shall be responsible for the expense of the examination and for the impoundment of the dog. The owner shall also be responsible for any expense for euthanizing the dog, and for preparing the head for shipment to the public health laboratory. If the dog is a stray, the rabies control authority shall be responsible for the expense, and such expense shall be paid from fees collected under RSA 466:4 and 466:6.

III. Any healthy dog vaccinated in accordance with RSA 436:100, which has bitten any person and caused a puncture of the skin or caused a "non-bite" exposure, shall be confined by the owner, or other responsible person as required by local authorities, for a period of 10 days, at which time the dog shall be examined by a licensed veterinarian. If the veterinarian observes no signs of rabies, the dog may be released from confinement. A licensed veterinarian shall evaluate any illness in the dog during confinement or before release. If signs, suggestive of rabies develop, the dog shall be euthanized and the head sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Division of Public Health services. It shall be the responsibility of the owner for any expense for the examination and for the impoundment of the dog. The owner shall also be responsible for any expense for euthanizing the dog and for preparing the head for shipment to the public health laboratory. If the dog is a stray, the rabies control authority shall be responsible for the expense incurred, and such expense shall be paid from fees collected under RSA 466:4 and 466:6.

## COPIES FOUND WITH DOG ABATEMENT NOTICES