

NOTE ABOUT RABIES: Please call the CD Section at 217-782-2016 for any questions or when the situation does not appear to fall readily within this guideline. Rabies is a very serious disease which requires quick, appropriate action

Evaluate the health of the dog or cat and whether the bite/scratch was provoked¹ or unprovoked²

Healthy AND provoked bite

Dog/cat has signs of rabies³ OR unprovoked bite

Is the dog/cat available for confinement and observation for 10 days?

Test dog/cat brain for rabies

AVAILABLE
(Do not start rabies PEP)

NOT Available

NEGATIVE

POSITIVE,
UNSATISFACTORY
OR is untested

Does dog or cat become ill, die or survive the 10 day confinement and observation period?

NO PEP recommended

PEP recommended

SURVIVES

NEGATIVE

POSITIVE,
UNSATISFACTORY
OR is untested

Becomes ill or dies

Test dog/cat brain for rabies

1 Provoked bite – bite might be expected given the circumstances (e.g. separating 2 fighting animals, handling unfamiliar animal, taking away an animal’s food, running or biking by the dog, entering a dog’s property)
 2 Unprovoked – bite would not be expected given the circumstances (e.g. person walking in the park and dog or cat runs up and bites)
 3 Signs of rabies – trouble walking, paralysis or weakness, excess salivation, neurologic problems or extreme aggressiveness