



Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Guidelines by Type of Animal



Type of Animal	Exposure	Location	Quarantine or Testing	Outcome	Rabies PEP [†]
 Dogs, Cats, & Ferrets	Any one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bite • Scratch (cat or ferret) • Animal saliva contact with open wound or mucous membrane 	Address where animal lives is known Stray / Uncertain / Unknown location	10-Day quarantine for healthy animals: <i>Confine to home or Animal Care & Control Team (ACCT) shelter. PDPH will observe if owner & victim do not live together.</i> Rabies testing at PDPH for unhealthy animals: <i>Submit through ACCT or pet's veterinarian.</i>	Healthy after 10 days Dies within 10 days & not tested Tests <u>negative</u> Tests <u>positive</u>	Not Needed Administer PEP Not Needed Administer PEP
 Bats	Any one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Felt or saw bat bite • Asleep or unconscious in room with bat • Child, mentally/physically disabled adult or intoxicated person in room with bat None of the above	Location known & bat captured: <i>Call ACCT at (267) 385-3800 to have bat captured & delivered to PDPH.</i> Unknown location / Not captured or tested	Submit bat for rabies testing at PDPH: <i>PEP may be started if rabies testing cannot be performed within 48 hours.</i>	Bat tests <u>negative</u> for rabies. Bat tests <u>positive</u> for rabies.	Not Needed / Discontinue PEP Administer PEP Administer PEP Not Needed
 Wild Animals	Raccoons, skunks, foxes, groundhogs, & most other wild mammals*: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bite • Scratch • Animal saliva contact with open wound or mucous membrane 	Location known & animal captured: <i>Call ACCT at (267) 385-3800 to have animal captured & delivered to PDPH.</i> Unknown location / Not captured or tested	Submit animal for rabies testing at PDPH: <i>PEP may be started if rabies testing cannot be performed within 48 hours.</i>	Animal tests <u>negative</u> for rabies. Animal tests <u>positive</u> for rabies.	Not Needed / Discontinue PEP Administer PEP Administer PEP

**Small rodents (rats, mice, squirrels, etc) and rabbits are not known to transmit rabies to humans. Exposures involving these animals usually do not require PEP. Call PDPH for unusual situations (i.e., unprovoked attacks, bites on the face, etc).*

[†]Rabies PEP: For previously unvaccinated, healthy persons, administer rabies immunoglobulin (day 0) & 4 doses of rabies vaccine (days 0, 3, 7, & 14). PDPH also will notify the victim about whether or not rabies PEP is needed. Additional guidance, PEP series schedules, vaccine ordering information, & reporting forms are available at: <https://hip.phila.gov>.

For All Animal Exposures, Report Human Victim & Animal Information Including Location to PDPH:

Telephone: (215) 685-6748 | Fax: (215) 238-6947 | <https://hip.phila.gov>