



Animal Bites Procedures
Title 10. Health and Safety of Animals
Chapter 826. Rabies



Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus that affects the central nervous system of warm-blooded animals and is transmitted through the saliva of an infected animal. Typically, an animal contracts the virus through a bite, scratch, or breaking of the skin from contact with saliva of an infected animal. An infected animal will typically start to show signs of the rabies virus three to eight (3 - 8) weeks after being infected. For dogs and cats, once the animal starts to show signs of rabies, the animal will typically die within ten (10) days.

What to do if you are bitten by an animal

If a warm-blooded animal (dog, cat, skunk, fox, bat, etc.) bites or scratches a person, there is a danger that the animal is infected with rabies. Follow the following steps.

- Call the Sheriff's Office at 936-642-1424, unless you need emergency care, then call 911
- Provide a description of the animal, including color, breed, and the owner's name/contact information, if known.
- Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and warm water as a first aid procedure
- Consult a physician as soon as possible to determine if additional treatment is needed.
- IF ANYTIME DURING QUARANTINE PERIOD, THE ANIMAL IS SPOTTED LOOSE OR UNACCOMPANIED AND NOT ON A LEASH CONTACT THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

If you are the owner of the animal that has bitten someone

If your animal bites a person, regardless of if they are known to you or a stranger, you must report this information to the Sheriff's Office at 936-642-1424, unless you need emergency care, then call 911

- Dog, Cats and Ferrets,
 - Regardless of vaccination status, must be quarantined for **10 days, starting at the time of the bite, AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.**
 - **If the owner can produce records, showing proof of rabies vaccination, the animal may be quarantined at the private residence in accordance with the law.**
 - **If there is no proof of rabies vaccination, the animal will be quarantined at a designated facility in accordance with the law, AT THE OWNER'S EXPENSE.**
 - **The animal must be available for inspection on the first day of quarantine and the last day of quarantine**
 - **Failure to quarantine can result in one or more of the following: animal being seized, the animal being humanely euthanized and tested, in accordance with this chapter**
 - **IF THE ANIMAL THAT IS SUBJECT TO QUARANTINE, IS FOUND TO NOT BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS, WILL RESULT IN THE OWNER BEING ISSUED A CITATION AND OR ARRESTED FOR VIOLATIONS OF CHAPTER 826.**

"Quarantine" means strict confinement of an animal specified in an order of the department or its designee: (A) on the private premises of the animal's owner or at a facility approved by the department or its designee; and (B) under restraint by closed cage or paddock or in any other manner approved by department rule.