Virginia Guidelines for Rabies Prevention and Control Attachment 7c
HUMAN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC ANIMAL

Report exposure to your local health department or animal control agency

Fits Exposure Definition*

NO No PEP**

YES

Dog / Cat / Ferret

Available

NO

Administer PEP

Dies

Test for rabies

POSITIVE

Administer PEP§

NEGATIVE

Euthanize

Confine and observe 10 days

Sick or Abnormal

Examination by Veterinarian

Euthanize

Euthanize and test

POSITIVE

Administer PEP§

NEGATIVE

NO PEP

Continue observation to end of 10-day period

Livestock

Normal behavior, healthy and history negative for rabies exposure

Euthanize and test

POSITIVE

Administer PEP§

NEGATIVE

NO PEP

§To determine which PEP series is necessary, ask the patient if s/he has received rabies vaccinations before.

*See text for more detail

** PEP = postexposure prophylaxis

Exposure = any situation where saliva or central nervous system tissue of a confirmed or suspect rabid animal enters an open, fresh wound or comes in contact with a mucus membrane by entering the eye, nose or mouth. The most efficient route of exposure is a bite. Dogs, cats and ferrets that bite people should be considered suspect rabid until the end of the 10 day observation period.

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