Virginia Guidelines for Rabies Prevention and Control Attachment 7d


HUMAN EXPOSED TO HIGH OR LOW RISK WILD OR EXOTIC ANIMAL

Fits Exposure Definition*  NO  No PEP**  YES

High Risk Animals***  Low Risk Animals***

AVAILABLE  Normal Health and Behavior

YES  NO

Euthanize and Test  Administer PEP

POSITIVE  NEGATIVE

Administer PEP§  NO PEP

Low risk animals include small rodents and rabbits.

Low Risk Animals***  Available

Normal Health and Behavior

YES  NO

Euthanize and Test  Administer PEP

POSITIVE  NEGATIVE

Administer PEP§  NO PEP

Report exposure to your local health department or animal control agency

The animals most often diagnosed with rabies in VA are raccoons, skunks, and foxes. In VA, opossums, beavers, and groundhogs are also considered to be high risk.

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.

Bats: anyone who has had direct contact with a bat and cannot rule out a bite or has been in a room with a bat and is unable to tell whether an exposure took place (e.g. infant, cognitively impaired or sleeping adult) should be considered potentially exposed to rabies.

* See full guideline text for more detail.
** PEP = postexposure prophylaxis
*** See full guideline text for more detail.
§To determine what PEP series is needed, ask the patient if he has received rabies vaccines before.

Last updated: 4/28/2016