HUMAN EXPOSED TO HIGH OR LOW RISK WILD OR EXOTIC ANIMAL

Exposure=any situation where saliva or central nervous system tissue of a confirmed or suspect animal enters an open, fresh wound or comes into contact with a mucus membrane by entering the eye, nose or mouth. The most efficient route 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.

The animals most often diagnosed with rabies in VA are **raccoons, skunks, and foxes.** See exposure definition information related to bats. In VA, **opossums, beavers, and groundhogs** are also considered high risk.

**High Risk Animals**

Available for testing

- YES
  - Euthanize and test
    - POSITIVE: Administer PEP
    - NEGATIVE: No PEP

- NO
  - Administer PEP

**Low Risk Animals**

Available for testing

- YES
  - Euthanize and test
    - POSITIVE: Administer PEP
    - NEGATIVE: No PEP

- NO
  - Administer PEP

**Low Risk Animals**

Available for testing

- YES
  - Euthanize and test
    - POSITIVE: Administer PEP
    - NEGATIVE: No PEP

- NO
  - Administer PEP

Fits Exposure Definition

- NO
  - No PEP

- YES
  - Report exposure to your local health department of animal control agency

1See full guideline text for more detail
2PEP=postexposure prophylaxis
3See full guideline text for more detail
4To determine what PEP is needed, ask the patient if s/he has received rabies vaccine before