RABIES EXPOSURE DECISION TREE: HUMAN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC ANIMAL

Fits Exposure Definition* NO No PEP**

YES

Dog / Cat / Ferret

Livestock

Available

Normal behavior, healthy and history negative for rabies exposure

Confine animal and observe 10 days

(Euthanize and test)

Dies

Sick or Abnormal

Healthy for 10 days

Test for rabies

Examination by Veterinarian

Signs compatible with rabies

Signs not compatible with rabies

Positive

Negative

Administer PEP§

NO PEP

Continue observation to end of 10-day period

Report exposure to your local health department or animal control agency

Positive

NEGATIVE

NEGATIVE

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

*See guidelines for more details about rabies exposure

**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.