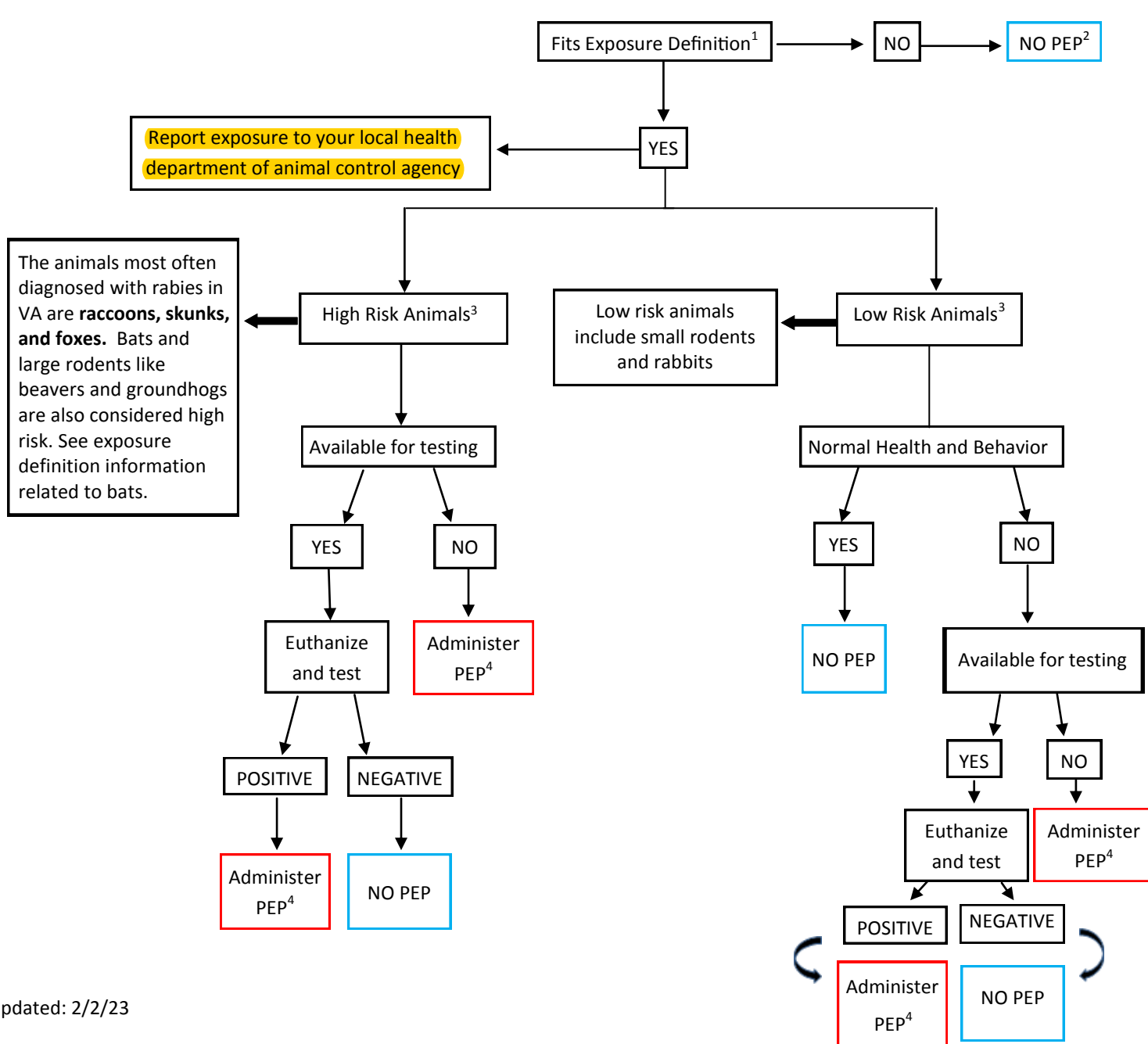


Virginia Guidelines for Rabies Prevention and Control

<https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/animal-contact-human-health/rabies-control/virginia-guidelines-for-rabies-prevention-and-control/>

RABIES EXPOSURE DECISION TREE: HUMAN EXPOSED TO HIGH OR LOW RISK WILD OR

EXOTIC ANIMAL



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

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.

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