Rabies Exposure Decision Tree: 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.

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