DOG OR CAT CONFINEMENT

**Commonwealth of Virginia**

Department of Health

Central Virginia Health District

Amherst Appomattox Bedford Campbell & Lynchburg

DOG OR CAT CONFINEMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FREQUENTLY

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www.vdh.virginia.gov/epidemiology/DEE/Rabies/

DOG OR CAT CONFINEMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

* **What will happen to the animal that bit me**? The animal will be confined for 10 days. This is usually done at the home of the owner, but animals are sometimes confined at the local Animal Shelter or a veterinarian’s office.
* **Why is the animal confined for 10 days?** Extensive testing has shown that if a dog or cat is healthy at the time of the bite, and remains healthy for 10 days, that bite could not give you rabies.
* **I’m afraid that, once the confinement is over, this animal will bite again. Will the Health Department make the owner get rid of it?** If you believe a dog is overly aggressive and represents a bite danger to the community, please call your local Animal Control Official.

ASKED

QUESTIONS<EMPTY>

<EMPTY>



* **Should I begin rabies treatment during the 10 day confinement period?** Each exposure is different, so check with your personal physician about your specific case. Usually there is plenty of time to safely postpone rabies treatment to allow for the 10-day confinement period.
* **Will the Health Department make the animal owner pay for my medical treatments?** The Health Department cannot determine financial responsibility between bite victims and animal owners.
* **Why does the Health Department confine dogs and cats rather than just testing for rabies immediately?** First, because confining an animal is a very reliable a method of determining an animals’ rabies status. Second, in order for the laboratory to test an animal for rabies, the animal must first be euthanized. Confinement is generally the preferred option because it allows for humane treatment of the animal and reliable information for the victim.
* **What happens at the end of the 10 day confinement?** The health of the animal will be assessed. If it is healthy, the animal will be released from confinement. If the animal exhibits signs of rabies at any time during the confinement, it will be immediately euthanized and tested for rabies. You will be notified as to any changes in the health of the animal during its confinement.

# CONFINEMENT



# VACCINATE YOUR PETS

# RABIES PREVENTION