

WHEN A PERSON IS EXPOSED TO AN ANIMAL SUSPECTED OF RABIES

Person Exposed*
(bitten, scratched, or in contact with saliva or neural tissue)

1. Wash wounds thoroughly with soap and water
2. Seek medical attention for the wound
3. Contact the SC DHEC Rabies On-Call Team at 1-888-847-0902

What type of animal was the person bitten by?

Pet
Dog, cat, or ferret

Wild Animal or Feral/Stray Pet Showing Signs of Illness
Wild animals include: raccoons, skunks, bats, foxes, groundhogs, otters, coyotes, bobcats, etc.
Dogs, cats, and ferrets are pets

Livestock

Small Rodent
Squirrels, hamsters, chipmunks, rats, mice, rabbits, hares, etc.

Quarantine and observe for 10-days (regardless of vaccination status)

Contact the SC DHEC Rabies Prevention Program for guidance

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Evaluated on a case-by-case basis

Is the animal available for testing?

On 10th-Day: What is the pet's health status?

Is the animal available for testing?

YES

NO

ALIVE & HEALTHY

SICK OR DEAD

YES

NO

Pet does not have rabies

Contact the SC DHEC Rabies Prevention Program for guidance

Rabies Prevention Program can help with submitting the specimen to the Public Health Lab (PHL) for testing

Exposed person should seek medical care to discuss rabies postexposure prophylaxis
Consultation with SC DHEC health officials is available (optional)
Contact SC DHEC Rabies Prevention Program to initiate consultation

Owned Small Rodent
Contact the SC DHEC Rabies Prevention Program for Guidance
Evaluated on a case-by-case basis

..... **OR**

Wild Small Rodent
Contact the SC DHEC Rabies Prevention Program for help submitting the specimen for testing

The animal was healthy and not showing signs of illness:
Rabies postexposure prophylaxis is not indicated

..... **OR**

The animal was NOT healthy and was showing signs of illness
Seek medical care to discuss rabies postexposure prophylaxis
Consultation with SC DHEC health officials is available (optional)
Contact SC DHEC Rabies Prevention to initiate consultation

* Exposures must be reported to the SC DHEC Rabies Prevention Program using the [Animal Incident Report form](#).
Contact information for local Environmental Affairs offices is available at scdhec.gov/EAoffices.
For more information on rabies and to submit an incident report, visit scdhec.gov/rabies or cdc.gov/rabies.