

Rabies Guidelines

We receive many calls about rabies in the State Veterinarian’s office, and we use the 2016 Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control to answer those questions. Here is a summary of the guidelines for animals that bite or are bit.

Pets That Bite People or Other Animals

Owned dog, cat, or ferret (vaccination status does not matter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confine and observe daily for 10 days • If neurologic signs develop, euthanize and submit brain for testing
Stray dog, cat, or ferret	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confine and observe daily for 10 days <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Euthanize immediately and submit brain for testing
Other species	Contact the State Veterinarian’s office or Utah Department of Health at (801) 538-6333 for guidance

Pets Bit by a Potentially Rabid Animal

Vaccinated animals (up to date on vaccine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment • Wound cleansing • Rabies booster • Owner observation for 45 days
Overdue on vaccination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment • Wound cleansing • Rabies booster within 96 hours • Owner observation for 45 days (longer if booster given after 96 hours)
Never vaccinated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate euthanasia <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rabies booster within 96 hours • Strict quarantine (no contact with animals or people) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 months dogs and cats (6 months if booster given after 96 hours) • 6 months ferrets
Unknown vaccination status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat as unvaccinated <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospective serologic monitoring at Kansas State Rabies Laboratory

Utah State Public Health Laboratory

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Rabies Testing Guide: http://health.utah.gov/epi/diseases/rabies/UDOH_Rabies_Testing_Guide%20.pdf

Submission Form: http://health.utah.gov/epi/diseases/rabies/UDOH_Rabies_Testing_Request_Form.pdf

Kansas State Rabies Laboratory

<http://www.ksvdl.org/rabies-laboratory/>