

# Rabies FAQs

## **My dog/cat/ferret bit a human in Door County. What happens next?**

- Call local law enforcement. An officer will meet with you and collect information about the event.
- If a bite occurred, the animal may be ordered for a 10-day quarantine from the day of the bite.
- During the quarantine, three veterinary (vet) checks must be completed.
  - Day 0: Day of the bite
  - Day 1: First vet check (within 24 hours of the event)
  - Day 2-9: Second vet check
  - Day 10: Third vet check
- Submit completed quarantine form with three vet checks to DCPH within 24 hours of the last vet check.

## **What happens if I choose not to follow the ordered quarantine and vet check requirement?**

Failure to follow the requirements may result in a citation up to \$1,000.00 and/or imprisonment up to 60 days per Wis. Stat. 95.21 (10).

## **Why is Door County Public Health calling me after I talk with the police about an animal bite?**

Door County Public Health wants to provide information about the process and answer any questions you may have.

## **What happens if my family dog/cat/ferret bites a family member?**

The same process. Any bite has the potential risk of passing rabies to the victim.

## **What happens if I get bit by a stray and no one can catch/trap it?**

You will be told to call your primary care provider to discuss your rabies risk and the rabies post-exposure treatment.



## **I found a bat in my house. What do I need to do?**

Contact your local animal control officer to safely capture the bat. Contact us at (920) 746-2234 to assess whether a potential exposure occurred.

The bat should be delivered to DCPH to have it tested at the Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WSLH) if you answer “yes” to any of the following:

- The bat was found in the same room as a sleeping/incapacitated adult
- The bat was found in the same room as a young child
- A person came in direct contact with the bat

## **My cat killed a bat. What should I do with the bat?**

If a domestic animal was exposed to a potentially rabid animal (e.g. a bat, skunk, raccoon, etc.), please call DCPH at (920) 746-2234. A staff member will assess the risk. If a potential exposure occurred, the domestic animal may be ordered for a quarantine. The owner may choose to have the potentially rabid animal shipped to WSLH for rabies testing. If the result is negative for rabies, then the quarantine may be rescinded.

- Dogs/cats/ferrets exposed to a potentially rabid animal may be ordered for a 60-day or 180-day quarantine based on the domestic animal's rabies vaccination status at the time of exposure. In either case, the domestic animal must get a rabies vaccination as soon as it is safe to do so.
- The owner of the domestic animal is responsible for all fees associated with this process.

## **Why is my dog being ordered for a 10-day quarantine when it's up to date on its rabies vaccination?**

Not every vaccine works 100%. There is still a chance your animal can have the virus. Per Wis. Stat. 95.21, a dog/cat/ferret is still required to be quarantined for 10-days regardless of vaccination status if it bites a human.

- If the animal was up to date on its rabies vaccination at the time of the bite, it may be allowed to serve its quarantine at the home.
- If the animal was NOT up to date on its rabies vaccination at the time of the bite, then it may serve its quarantine at an isolation facility, such as the Door County Humane Society.



## **Can I choose not to do the 10-day quarantine, and instead ship my dog/cat/ferret to be tested at WSLH?**

Yes, but the owner is responsible for all fees associated per Wis. Stat. 95.21 (8).

## **What happens if I am not sure which of several animals bit me?**

Notify law enforcement of this uncertainty so that they may issue a quarantine on multiple animals if needed.

## **In the process of euthanasia, the animal bit someone. What should I do?**

Report the incident to local law enforcement. The dog/cat/ferret should be tested for rabies to make sure that the victim has no risk of rabies.

## **Who is responsible for all vet and shipping fees?**

The owner of the offending animal is responsible for all vet and shipping fees per Wis. Stat. 95.21(8). The rabies testing fee is typically waived by the State when a human has been exposed to rabies.

## **Where does the rabies testing take place?**

The Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene (WSLH) in Madison, WI.

## **How much do veterinarian checks, shipping, and rabies testing cost?**

Veterinarian fees vary depending on the animal and the clinic. Ask your veterinarian for a quote. Shipping costs vary depending on the size and weight of the box, and the shipping speed (likely between \$60-\$150). Rabies testing is usually waived by the WSLH when a human exposure happens.

## **What veterinary clinics in Door County ship wild animals?**

Several vet clinics in Door County are able to do this. Please call DCPH at (920) 746-2234 to select a clinic or reach out to your local vet clinic.

