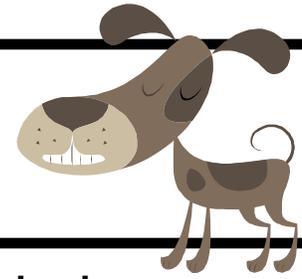


# **ANIMAL BITES: What to do if your pet was bitten?**



## **Steps to take if you are pet was bitten by an unknown animal or a wild animal:**

### **What if my pet has been bitten?**

1. Consult your veterinarian immediately.
2. If your dog, cat, or ferret has a current vaccination, it should be revaccinated immediately, according to Wisconsin State Law. The pet will need to be quarantined at home for 60 days, kept under your control, on your property and observed. This means the pet has to stay in the home, away from people besides the people living in the home, and taken outside on a leash.
3. If a dog, cat, ferret or other pet is not current on their rabies vaccination, it should be quarantined at home for 180 days, according to Wisconsin State Law. The pet must be kept under your control, on your property and observed. This means the pet has to stay in the home, away from people besides the people living in the home, and taken outside on a leash. A rabies vaccination must be completed after 155 to 165 days, approximately at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> month, to your pet.

Note: No vet checks are required.

### **What are the signs of rabies in animals?**

Once the rabies virus enters the body, it travels along the nerves to the brain. Dogs, cats, and ferrets with rabies may show a variety of signs, including:

- Fearfulness
- Excessive drooling
- Staggering
- Aggression
- Difficulty swallowing
- Seizures

Also the signs seen in dogs and cats, horses, cattle, sheep, and goats with rabies may exhibit depression, self mutilation, or increased sensitivity to light.

Rabid wild animals may only display unusual behavior; for example, an animal that is usually only seen at night may be seen wandering in the daytime.

For more information, contact your local veterinarian or contact Lincoln County Health Department at 715-536-0307, 607 N. Sales St, Suite 101, Merrill.

#### **SOURCE:**

WI Division of Public Health (1/09)

American Veterinary Medical Association (3/10)