

Owner's Responsibilities for Pets that Bite Humans

If your dog, cat, or ferret (pet) has bitten a human, you, as the owner, have requirements and responsibilities, according to Colorado State law (Colorado Revised Statute 25-4-604) and Pueblo County (Ordinance 6.04.030 B) and City (Ordinance Section 11-4-13) ordinances, that must be followed.

The owner of the pet who has bitten someone, regardless of the animal's rabies vaccination status, is responsible to hold and observe the pet for a 10-day confinement period. The purpose of the confinement is to determine whether the pet shows signs of rabies. During the 10-day period, the pet can stay in its current home and be around the current occupants and pets residing in the home. If the pet leaves the property, it must always be on a leash and remain under the owner's control, with no contact with other animals or the public. The pet should not receive any vaccinations during this period. If the animal becomes ill, does not survive the 10-day period, or if the owner is unable to complete the 10-day observation, immediately notify the Health Department or the Humane Society.

Please Note: The Humane Society and the Health Department DO NOT provide bite-hold boarding for pets.

As the pet owner, you are responsible for all associated costs and fees for maintaining the pet under confinement or for euthanasia and testing. Please select one of the options below:

1. Owner will hold and observe (or make arrangements at the owner's expense) the pet for a 10-day post-bite confinement period. The Health Department and the Humane Society have the right to visit the residence/facility to check on compliance at any time during the 10-day period.

Address of Bite-Hold _____ Phone number _____

2. Owner will have the Humane Society euthanize and test their pet for rabies. All costs and fees associated with euthanasia and testing are the responsibility of the pet owner. All costs and fees must be paid in advance.

Cost: Euthanasia _____ Transport _____ Sample collection _____
Testing _____ Cremation _____

3. Owner will have a licensed veterinarian euthanize and test their pet for rabies. All costs and fees associated with euthanasia and testing through a licensed veterinarian are the responsibility of the pet owner. Veterinary offices must comply with state law and local ordinances requiring testing if a 10-day bite hold is **not** maintained. For further guidance, call the Health Department at 719-583-4998.

4. Owner/co-owner of the pet is 1) the bite victim, 2) over the age of 18 and 3) living in the residence with the pet and will sign a waiver of testing.

Signature of pet owner _____ Date _____

For questions or more information contact:

Pueblo Department of Public Health and Environment 719-583-4998
Human Society of the Pikes Peak Region-Pueblo 719-544-3005

HSPPR staff-give one copy to animal owner and enter bite information into REDCap.