Rabies Risk Assessment for Human Exposure to Animals

- **What type of animal was involved?**
  - If not a mammal, there is NO risk for rabies.
  - Yes: Determine if exposure has occurred.
  - No: No further action.

- **Determine if exposure has occurred.**
  - Bite? Saliva or CNS tissue in mucous membranes or wound? Proximity exposure to bat?
  - Yes: No further action.
  - No: Proceed to next step.

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**Bats, skunks, foxes, raccoons or other wild carnivores**

- Is animal available for testing?
  - Yes: Test. Call local animal control or CO Division of Wildlife (for large, wild animals; e.g., coyotes) to submit animal to CDPHE or CSU labs. Call CDPHE at 303-682-2700 or 800-866-2759; after hours, call 303-370-9395.
  - No: Proceed to next step.

- Test:
  - Call local animal control or CO Division of Wildlife (for large, wild animals; e.g., coyotes) to submit animal to CDPHE or CSU labs. Call CDPHE at 303-682-2700 or 800-866-2759; after hours, call 303-370-9395.

- If animal is available for testing:
  - Positive: Start PEP.
  - Negative: No further action.

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**Rodents and rabbits**

- Except for unusual circumstances, rodents and rabbits in Colorado are not considered likely to transmit rabies, and do not need to be tested.

- PEP not indicated.

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**Cats, dogs, ferrets in U.S.**** (outside U.S., consult CDPHE)**

- Is animal available for testing or quarantine?
  - Yes: Withhold PEP and quarantine animal for 10 days.
  - No: Attempt to locate animal; report to animal control.

- Assess need for PEP:
  - Geographic area (West Slope is considered low-risk vs. areas with known epizootics)
  - Known animal vs. stray
  - Healthy acting vs. neurological symptoms

- Call local health department or CDPHE at 303-682-2700 or 800-866-2759; after hours, call 303-370-9395.

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**Monkeys and other exotic mammals**

- Rabies may be a risk, in addition to other diseases (e.g., herpes B virus may be an urgent concern with monkey bites).

- Call CDPHE at 303-682-2700 or 800-866-2759; after hours, call 303-370-9395.

- Are neurological signs present, and has human exposure occurred?
  - Yes: Test brain tissue.
  - No: No further action.

- Negative: No further action.
  - Positive: Start PEP.

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**Livestock**

- Report to CDPHE at 303-682-2700 or 800-866-2759; after hours, call 303-370-9395.

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**Notes**

- **Unusual circumstances:** large, wild rodent (beaver, muskrat) where skunk rabies is present; rodent or rabbit exhibits neurological signs vs. pet/ferret/ferret and rabbit is from a rabies epicenter. If domesticated rodent or rabbit, when housed outdoors.

- **There is no quarantine period for wild animals; therefore, post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) or testing animal’s brain are the only appropriate measures when exposure occurs.**

- **See separate Dog/Cat Bite algorithm for more information.**

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*For bites by high-rabies-incidence species such as bats, skunks, raccoons (and to a lesser extent, bobcats and coyotes), emergency animal testing may be necessary. Consider PEP when direct contact between a human and a bat has occurred, unless the exposed person is an adult and can be certain a bite, scratch or mucous membrane exposure did not occur. Consider prophylaxis for people who have been sleeping in a room with a bat, people with mental impairment, and children who have played unsupervised with a bat.*