

# **JENNINGS COUNTY, INDIANA**

## **STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP) FOR ANIMAL BITES SITUATIONS**

### **Definitions:**

I. State veterinary epidemiologist - a person designated by the Indiana State Department of Health to assist counties with the investigation of the possible transmission of diseases from animals to humans and serve as subject matter expert on that topic.

II. Animal Control - An agency that handles all animal bite incidents in Jennings County. This agency will communicate with the local Jennings County Department of Health to investigate animal bites, quarantine biting animals, and prepare animals for delivery to the Indiana State Department of Health to be tested for rabies.

III. County Health Official – Jennings County Environmentalist — designated by the county to report an animal bite to the Indiana State Department of Health and ensure that all regulations are properly carried out as specified by IC 16-41-2-1. See Appendix A for laws and regulations concerning rabies control in Indiana.

IV. Exposure - a break in the skin that could be contaminated with saliva. The presence of blood is not a determinant of exposure; a break of intact skin with potential contamination with saliva is determinant.

A. Domestic species - dogs, cats, ferrets

B. Livestock - cattle, sheep, goats, and horses

C. High risk species - an animal that is at higher risk of being infected with rabies and transmitting that infection to another mammal. The head (or whole body of bats) should be submitted to the ISDH Rabies Testing Laboratory if the animal has bitten a human or domestic pet.

1. Terrestrial – skunks, raccoons, foxes, and coyotes

2. Bats

C. Low risk species - an animal that is infrequently infected with rabies. Bites by these animals have not been known to transmit rabies to a human and are not considered to be a risk unless the animal is behaving in an unusual manner.

1. Rodents, lagomorphs, opossums
2. Note-woodchucks or groundhogs may have higher risk than other smaller rodents because they can survive the attack of a rabid carnivore.

V. Risk - pertains to the possibility that a certain animal may be infected with rabies when a bite occurs to a human or animal.

VI. Current vaccination - an animal is currently vaccinated if the primary rabies vaccine was administered by an accredited veterinarian at least 28 days prior to the event and a booster dose of rabies vaccine has been administered on an annual or triennial schedule.

VII. Quarantine - for bites from animal to human: a 10-day period of restriction to a building, pen, or other escape-proof enclosure to monitor for signs suggestive of rabies regardless of the animal's rabies vaccination status.

VIII. Isolation – for bites from animal (high risk species) to domestic pets: restriction of an animal that was potentially exposed to a rabid animal (high risk species) and is not currently vaccinated for rabies. This restriction should be for six (6) months, such that there is no direct contact with other animals or persons, except for the primary caretaker. During this period, the animal is not permitted to. If the animal begins to show illness suggestive of rabies, a veterinary evaluation is required. If the evaluating veterinarian determines that the animal may have rabies the specimen should be prepared and submitted to ISDH Rabies Laboratory as soon as possible.

### **Control measures:**

I. Every case of a human bitten by a domestic or wild mammal will be reported to Jennings County Animal Control and the Jennings County Health Department.

II. Every case of an animal to animal bite is to be reported to Jennings County Animal Control.

III. It will be the duty of the Hospital, Physicians Office and or medical clinics to complete the Indiana State Bite report promptly after notification of occurrence of the bite. The bite report is to be filed to the Jennings County Animal Control and the Jennings County Health Department within twenty-four (24) hours after notification that a bite has occurred.

IV. It will be the duty of the Jennings County Animal Control and the Jennings County Health Department to ensure that the procedures required are carried out.

## **Quarantine guidelines, as required under Indiana Code 16-41-2-1**

I. Any apparently healthy dog, cat, or ferret that has bitten a person, or suspected of being rabid shall be confined and held in observation (Quarantine) for ten (10) days.

A. It shall be the duty of the Jennings County Animal Control Officer to investigate a bite with the purpose of determining the need for post-exposure rabies prophylaxis of the bite victim. The Jennings County Animal Control Officer will determine where the 10 day quarantine will take place.

1. The quarantine period can be conducted at a suitable animal control facility {or if the county allows at the owner's home}.
2. Home quarantine instructions are provided in Appendix B.

II. Any illness in the confined dog, cat, or ferret shall be reported immediately to the local health officer. Animals under confinement shall not be immunized against rabies during the observation period. The head of the animal that dies during the quarantine period, or is euthanized subsequent to having bitten a person or another animal, shall be removed and sent to Indiana State Department of Health Rabies testing laboratory.

A. Guidelines for submitting a specimen are included in Appendix C.

III. Any potentially rabid wild mammal (those that are symptomatic for rabies or are a member of a high risk species) that has bitten a human or domestic animal, shall not be placed under observation, but shall be humanely euthanized immediately in a manner that will not cause trauma to the head or brain. The head (or whole body if the animal is a bat) will be submitted to the rabies testing laboratory for examination. See Appendix C for guidelines for specimen submission.

### **Procedure for animal to animal bite**

{State law does not require that animal to animal bites be reported to the state health department. If your county policy does address animal to animal bites please include the specific control measures here.}

### **Procedure for animal to human bite**

I. Once the hospital, physicians office, and or medical clinic is notified of a bite to a human, a bite report is to be filed with the Jennings County Animal Control and the Jennings County Health Department within twenty-four (24) hours.

A. At minimum the report is to include:

- i. Victim Information
- ii. Incident Location Address
- iii. Incident County
- iv. Exposure Date and Reported Date and Time
- v. Owner information unless the animal is a stray or unwanted animal.
- vi. Location on body of bite and extent of injury.
- vii. Victim and Owner's (if applicable) statement of incident
- viii. State Department of Health Required information located on the bottom of the reporting form.

II. Domestic animals (Dogs/Cats/Ferrets)

A. If available for observation and/or testing, then the quarantine guidelines are followed and the animal is observed for ten (10) days.

- i. The Jennings County Animal Control Officer or Jennings County Sheriff Deputy and or City Police Officer is to place the animal in quarantine at a location designated by the Jennings County Animal Control Office for ten (10) days following the bite.
  - a. The agency/officer must require secure enclosed quarantine circumstances, issue the state bite quarantine order, and explain the information on the back of the bite report form describing health symptoms of rabies.
- ii. The Jennings County Animal Control is to follow-up with the owner after the 10-day period is complete if they have not heard about the health status from the animal's owner.
- iii. If the animal was ill at the time of the bite or became ill during the 10-day observation period, the owner is responsible for contacting the Jennings County Animal Control and Jennings County Health Department overseeing the quarantine regulations. An evaluation by a veterinarian is required.
  - a. The Jennings County Animal Control Officer must notify the proper county official if the veterinarian identifies clinical signs of rabies.
  - b. If the animal is released for testing, delivery of the animal to the ISDH Rabies Laboratory is required.

c. If the animal is not released for testing, the quarantine must be completed under the care of a veterinarian at a veterinary facility and the county health personnel will need to be notified of the change in location of the quarantine.

d. The Jennings County Animal Control must be notified that the quarantine animal has become ill.

e. The Jennings County Health Department and or Jennings County Animal Control will assist the bite victim or the bite victim's physician if he/she calls with questions regarding rabies or post-exposure prophylaxis.

f. The Jennings County Health Department or Jennings County Veterinarian will be responsible for obtaining test results from the ISDH Rabies Laboratory and notifying the bite victim of those test results.

g. If the victim began treatment and the animal's rabies test results are negative, treatment can be discontinued.

h. If the victim did not start treatment and the results are positive, Jennings County Health Department or Medical facilities (family physician) and or veterinarian is to notify the victim and strongly recommend Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. The Jennings County Health Department is to work with the victim or victim's physician to ensure that appropriate post-exposure treatment has been received.

B. If the animal is not available for observation and/or testing

i. The Jennings County Health Department or the animal control officer is to provide an information card to the bite victim, advising them to contact their physician in regards to a potential rabies exposure. If the victim or the victim's physician has questions, the card provides the phone number for Indiana State Department of Health.

C. Guidelines for Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis for humans

i. All bite wounds should be treated immediately in the following steps:

1. Clean and flush wound as first aid.
2. A health care provider should evaluate the need for Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis, Tetanus prophylaxis, and antibiotics.

- ii. If the decision to provide Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis is made it must be reported to the Indiana State Department of Health. See IC 16-41-2-1 regarding proper Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.

### III. Wild Animals

#### A. High risk species (Bats, Raccoons, Skunks, Foxes, and Coyotes)

- i. If the animal is available for testing:

- a. The Jennings County Animal Control Officer and Jennings County veterinarian offices are to coordinate the collection, euthanasia, specimen processing, and delivery ISDH Rabies Laboratory.

- b. The Jennings County Animal Control Officer and Jennings County veterinarian offices is to notify the county health official of the incident.

- c. The county health official will assist the bite victim or the bite victim's physician if he/she calls with questions regarding Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis.

- d. The Jennings County Health Department and Jennings County Veterinarian will be responsible for obtaining test results from the ISDH Rabies Laboratory and notifying the bite victim of those test results.

- g. If the victim began treatment and the animal's rabies test results are negative, treatment can be discontinued.

- h. If the victim did not start treatment and the results are positive, Jennings County Health Department or family physician/medical facility or veterinarian is to notify the victim and strongly recommend Rabies post-exposure prophylaxis. The Jennings County Health Department is to work with the victim or victim's physician to ensure that appropriate post-exposure treatment has been received.

- ii. If the animal is not available for observation and/or testing

The Jennings County Health Department or Jennings County Animal Control Officer is to provide an information card to the bite victim, advising them to contact their physician in regards to a potential exposure. If the victim or the victim's physician has questions, the card provides the phone number for the Indiana State Department of Health.

#### B. Low Risk Species

- i. Bites from rodents and lagomorphs are not considered to be at high risk for rabies infection and are not considered a threat to the victim.
- ii. The Jennings County Health Department is to confer with the state veterinary epidemiologist concerning the testing of low risk species that are exhibiting symptoms of rabies or if other unusual circumstances exist.

### **Procedure upon return of a positive test result for Rabies**

I. Jennings County Health Department, Jennings County Animal Control Officer and Jennings County veterinarian is to notify all employees who were involved in the animal's handling. The supervisors should make sure that all protocols were followed properly and no exposure occurred.

II. The Jennings County Health Department, with assistance from the Jennings County Animal Control Office, Veterinarian and medical facility/physicians office, will identify all possible humans who may have been exposed and report to the state veterinary epidemiologist.

### **Refusal of an animal owner to produce an animal for quarantine**

I. The Jennings County Animal Control Officer is to work with the proper individual who can issue a search and seize warrant for the animal.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Indiana Rabies Laws and Regulations**

#### **Rule 5. Rabies Immunization**

##### **345 IAC 1-5-1 Rabies vaccination**

Authority: IC 15-17-3-21

Affected: IC 15-17-3-13; IC 15-17-6

#### **Section 1**

- a. For the purpose of administering IC 15-17-6 and this rule, an animal is deemed to be vaccinated for rabies only when the following provisions are met:
  1. The animal is vaccinated by a veterinarian that is:
    - A. licensed to practice veterinary medicine; and
    - B. accredited by the United States Department of Agriculture under 9 CFR, Subchapter J.
  2. The vaccine used must be licensed and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture. The dosage and administration of the vaccine used must be in accordance with this rule and the manufacturer's specifications described on the vaccine's label and package insert.
- b. The veterinarian performing a rabies vaccination of an animal shall do the following:
  1. Complete a vaccination certificate or computerized record, in triplicate, on each animal being vaccinated for rabies that shall include the following information:
    - A. The name and address of the animal's owner.
    - B. The species, sex, and age of the animal vaccinated.
    - C. The date the animal was vaccinated.
    - D. The product name and lot or serial number of the vaccine used.
    - E. The date the animal must be revaccinated under section 2 of this rule.
    - F. The number of the tag issued if a tag is issued under subdivision (3).
    - G. The name of the veterinarian completing the vaccination and his or her Indiana veterinary license number.
  2. The rabies vaccination certificate completed under subdivision (1) shall be distributed as follows:
    - A. One (1) copy of the certificate or computerized record shall be given to the owner or custodian of the animal being vaccinated for rabies.
    - B. One (1) copy of the certificate or computerized record shall be forwarded to the county health officer or the officer's designated agent upon the county health officer's request, or as the state veterinarian otherwise directs, within thirty (30) days of the vaccination.
    - C. One (1) copy of the certificate or computerized record shall be retained by the veterinarian vaccinating such animal covering the period of immunization

3. A veterinarian that vaccinates a dog, cat, or ferret shall furnish to the owner or custodian of the animal a rabies vaccination identification tag that contains the following:
  - A. The veterinarian's or clinic's name and telephone number.
  - B. A unique identification number.
  - C. The owner or custodian of an animal vaccinated for rabies shall keep a copy of the certificate and tag required to be issued under subsection (b) until such time as the animal must be revaccinated under section 2 of this rule. The board recommends that the owner or custodian of a dog affix the rabies vaccination tag to the collar or harness of the dog and that it be worn at all times. Nothing in this rule shall prevent a local unit of government from requiring that rabies vaccination tags be worn at all times. (d) Animals that have been vaccinated for rabies are subject to all quarantine provisions that may be imposed by state or local regulations. The final determination of an animal's rabies vaccination status shall be made by the state veterinarian.

### **345 IAC 1-5-2 Required rabies vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets**

#### **Section 2**

All dogs, cats, and ferrets three (3) months of age and older must be vaccinated against rabies. The rabies vaccination of a dog, cat, and ferret shall be maintained by ongoing revaccination of the animal as follows:

1. Ferrets shall be revaccinated within twelve (12) months of the prior vaccination.
2. Dogs and cats that are vaccinated with a rabies vaccine whose label recommends annual boosters shall be revaccinated within twelve (12) months of the prior vaccination.
3. Dogs and cats that are vaccinated with a rabies vaccine whose label recommends a booster one (1) year later and triennially thereafter shall be revaccinated within twelve (12) months of the first vaccination and shall be revaccinated within thirty-six (36) months of each vaccination thereafter. The owner of the animal is responsible for procuring the vaccinations required by this section.

### **345 IAC 1-5-3 Animal rabies control program**

#### **Section 3**

- a. The state veterinarian shall establish a statewide animal rabies control program. The rabies control program shall include the following:
  1. The rabies vaccination requirements in this rule.
  2. The rabies vaccine distribution requirements in 345 IAC 1-1.1.
  3. The rabies control requirements for the following:
    - A. Moving animals into the state in 345 IAC 1-3.
    - B. Exhibition of animals in 345 IAC 7-5.
  4. Other requirements in IC 15-17-6 and this rule.
  5. Other programs initiated by the state veterinarian for the purposes of:
    - A. preventing;
    - B. detecting;
    - C. controlling; and

- D. eradicating;
  
- b. The following components of the Compendium of Animal Rabies Control, 2005, National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc., are incorporated by reference as rules of the Indiana state board of animal health and shall be used in the implementation of the program established under subsection (a):
  - 1. Part I(B)(1) "Prevention and control methods in domestic and confined animals" and Part II "Recommendations for Parenteral Rabies Vaccination Procedures" when interpreting and implementing the animal vaccination requirements in this rule.
  - 2. Part I(B)(5) and Part I(B)(6) "Postexposure management" when interpreting and implementing IC 15-17-6 governing animal bites.
- c. Where the matters incorporated by reference in this section conflict with the provisions of IC 15-17-6 and this rule, the express provisions of the statute and this rule shall control

**NOTE: IC 35-46-3-1 - Harboring a nonimmunized dog**

A person who knowingly or intentionally harbors a dog that is over the age of six (6) months and not immunized against rabies commits harboring a nonimmunized dog, a class C infraction. However, the offense is a class B misdemeanor if the dog causes bodily injury by biting a person.

**Management of Animal Bites to Humans 410 IAC 1-2.3**

410 IAC 1-2.3-52 Animal bites; specific control measures

Authority: IC 16-41-2-1

Affected: IC 15-17-6-11; IC 16-41-2; IC 16-41-9

**Section 52**

- a. The specific control measures for animal bites are as follows:
  - 1. Every case of a human bitten by a domestic or wild mammal shall be reported promptly to the local health officer or his or her designee having jurisdiction. If a physician is in attendance, such physician shall report the bite. If no physician is in attendance and the person bitten is a child, it shall be the duty of the parent or the guardian to make such a report immediately. If the person bitten is an adult, such person shall make the report or, if incapacitated, the bite shall be reported by whoever is caring for the person bitten. It shall be the duty of the local health officer to report information concerning the bite on the prescribed form. The report shall include requested information on postexposure rabies prophylaxis if it is being administered to the bite victim. Each reported bite shall be investigated immediately by the local health officer or a designee. This investigation

shall be conducted with the purpose of determining the need for postexposure rabies prophylaxis of the bite victim and either:

- A. imposing a ten (10) day observation period on the biting animal (dog, cat, or ferret only) to determine if the animal was capable of transmitting rabies at the time of the biting incident; or
  - B. submission of the head, if the biting animal is a potential rabies vector, to the department laboratory to determine if it was infected with rabies.
2. Isolation is not necessary.
  3. Concurrent disinfection is not necessary.
  4. Quarantine shall be applied as follows:
    - A. Any apparently healthy dog, cat, or ferret that has bitten a person, or any dog, cat, or ferret suspected of being rabid shall be confined and held in observation for the period specified in IC 15-17-6-11 (not less than ten (10) days) or humanely killed at once for laboratory examination. Such confinement shall be under the supervision of the state veterinarian or a licensed, accredited veterinarian, or other person designated by the official quarantining the animal, and at the expense of the owner.
    - B. Any illness in the confined dog, cat, or ferret shall be reported immediately to the local health department. Animals under confinement shall not be immunized against rabies during the observation period. The head of any such dog, cat, or ferret that dies during the period of observation, or is killed subsequent to having bitten a person or another animal, shall be removed, packed in an iced container, but not frozen, and forwarded immediately to the laboratory of the department for rabies testing.
    - C. Any stray, unwanted, or unhealthy dog, cat, or ferret that has bitten a person shall be humanely killed immediately for laboratory examination. The animal's owner shall be responsible for having the unwanted or unhealthy animal euthanized, head removed, and shipped to the department for rabies examination. In the case of a stray animal or an animal whose owner cannot be found, the local health department or its designee shall assume this responsibility.
    - D. Any potentially rabid wild mammal that has bitten a human or a domestic animal, or is suspected of being rabid, shall not be placed under observation, but shall be humanely killed at once in a manner that does not cause trauma to the head or brain. The head shall be refrigerated, but not frozen, and submitted within forty-eight (48) hours to the laboratory of the department. Wild mammals include, but are not limited to, the following:
      - i. Wild animals kept as pets.
      - ii. Wild mammals crossbred to domestic dogs and cats.
    - E. The bite victim shall be notified after a dog, cat, or ferret has passed the ten (10) day observation period in a healthy state or after the results of a laboratory test are available.
    - F. Any person bitten or scratched by a wild carnivorous mammal or bat not available for rabies testing should be regarded as having been potentially exposed to rabies. The following chart provides information on quarantine and disposition of biting animals.

Animal Type	Evaluation and Disposition of Animal	Postexposure Prophylaxis Recommendation
Dogs, cats, and ferrets	Healthy and available for 10 day observation <sup>1</sup>	Should not begin prophylaxis unless animal develops symptoms of rabies <sup>2</sup>
	Rabid or suspected rabid	Immediate postexposure prophylaxis
	Unknown	Consult public health officials
Skunks, raccoons, bats <sup>3</sup> , foxes, and most other carnivores; woodchucks and wild animals kept as pets	Regard as rabid unless geographic area is known to be free of rabies or until animal proven negative by laboratory testing <sup>4</sup>	Immediate postexposure prophylaxis or if animal available for testing, as soon as positive result is observed
Livestock, rodents, and lagomorphs (rabbits and hares)	Consider individually	Consult public health officials. Bites of squirrels, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rats, mice, other rodents, rabbits, and hares almost never require antirabies treatment.
<sup>1</sup> Stray dogs and cats may be euthanized immediately and their heads submitted to the rabies laboratory.		
<sup>2</sup> Postexposure prophylaxis should be started if a veterinarian identifies an animal as being symptomatic. Symptomatic animals should be euthanized and tested immediately.		
<sup>3</sup> What appears to be insignificant contact with bats may result in rabies transmission, even without clear evidence of a bite. Postexposure prophylaxis is recommended for all persons with bite, scratch, or mucous membrane exposure to a bat unless the bat is available for testing and is negative for rabies. Postexposure prophylaxis is appropriate even in the absence of bite, scratch, or mucous membrane exposure in situations in which there is a reasonable probability that such contact occurred (for example, a sleeping individual awakes to find a bat in the room, an adult witnesses a bat in the room with a previously unattended child, mentally challenged person, or intoxicated person) and rabies cannot be ruled out by testing the bat.		
<sup>4</sup> The animal should be killed and tested as soon as possible. Holding for observation is not		

recommended as time lapse from virus secretion in saliva until clinical symptoms appear have not been determined for species other than a dog, cat, and ferret. Consult with the department veterinary epidemiologist for information on presence or absence of rabies in particular species.

- b. All bite wounds should be treated immediately in the following steps:
  - 1. Clean and flush wound as first aid.
  - 2. Thorough wound cleansing under medical supervision.
  - 3. Evaluation of need for postexposure prophylaxis.
  - 4. Tetanus prophylaxis and antibacterial treatment as required.
- c. If the decision is made to provide postexposure prophylaxis to the individual, the following protocols must be followed, and a decision to provide postexposure prophylaxis must be reported to the department:

<b>Guidelines for Postexposure Prophylaxis</b>		
<b>Vaccination Status</b>	<b>Treatment</b>	<b>Regimen*</b>
Not previously vaccinated	Local wound cleaning	All postexposure treatment should begin with immediate thorough cleansing of all wounds with soap and water.
	Human rabies immune globulin (HRIG)	20 IU/kg body weight. If anatomically feasible, the full dose should be infiltrated around the wound or wounds. Any remaining volume should be administered intramuscularly at a site distant from vaccine inoculation.
	Vaccine	Human diploid cell vaccine (HDCV), purified chick embryo cell vaccine (PCEC), or rabies vaccine adsorbed (RVA), 1.0 ml, IM (deltoid <sup>1</sup> ), 1 each on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28.
Previously vaccinated <sup>2</sup>	Local wound cleaning	All postexposure treatment should begin with immediate thorough cleansing of all wounds with soap and water.
	HRIG	Should not be administered.
	Vaccine	HDCV, PCEC, or RVA, 1.0 ml IM (deltoid <sup>1</sup> ), 1 each on days 0 and 3.
*These regimens are applicable for all age groups, including children.		
<sup>1</sup> The deltoid area is the only acceptable site of vaccination for adults and older children. For younger children, the outer aspect of the thigh may be used. The vaccine should never be administered in the		

gluteal area.

<sup>2</sup>Any person with a history of preexposure vaccination with HDCV or RVA; prior postexposure prophylaxis with HDCV or RVA; or previous vaccination with any other type of rabies vaccine and a documented history of antibody response to the prior vaccination.

## **APPENDIX B**

### **Instructions for Animal Confinement during a 10 Day Quarantine**

- i. The facility used for confinement shall ensure an escape-proof environment, be subject to unannounced periodic spot checks by the Jennings County Animal Control Department or Jennings County Health Department. The animal shall be confined indoors, not on a chain or in a fenced yard. Diagrams for the construction of cat and dog quarantine cages are available.
  - A. The animal shall not leave the quarantine premises unless medically necessary. The animal shall not have contact with humans or other animals for the 10-day period, with the exception of the primary care taker.
  - B. At the end of the 10-day quarantine period, the owner is responsible for contacting the Jennings County Health Department to report the health status of the animal.
  - C. If these guidelines cannot be met or are violated at any time during the quarantine period, the animal will be seized and the remainder of the quarantine period will be completed at the Jennings County Animal Control Department or veterinarian facilities.

## **Appendix C**

### **ISDH Guidelines for Animal Submissions to the Rabies Laboratory**

1. Place animal head or entire dead bat specimens in a sealable container (Zip-lock bag). Completely seal bag.
2. Double bag the specimen to prevent leakage during transport. Completely seal the second bag.
3. The LimsNet Cover Sheet or completed specimen request form should be put in a separate zip-lock bag. Completely seal the bag.
4. Place the specimen on cold pack(s) inside an insulated shipping box. (1 cold pack for bats, 2-3 cold packs for all other animals). Please do not use ice or packing peanuts during shipping.
5. Ship specimens for overnight delivery to the ISDH Laboratories in an insulated shipping box within 24 hours of collection.

Indiana State Department of Health Laboratories  
Rabies Laboratory  
550 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

6. Ship in compliance with DOT and IATA regulations for Category B packages.

**Note that ISDH cannot receive specimens on weekends or holidays.**

**For questions please contact the Indiana State Department of Health Laboratories at 317-921-5500.**

## **Appendix D**

### **GUIDELINES FOR HANDLING ANIMALS THAT HAVE BITTEN A HUMAN OR DOMESTIC PET**

#### **Cats/Dogs/Ferrets**

- Mandatory 10-day quarantine
  - Includes all owned, surrendered, and feral animals
  - Instructions for quarantine by owner are available
- Do NOT euthanize and submit to ISDH Rabies Laboratory without prior permission from ISDH
  - Permission to test will ONLY be granted for animals that are too sick/injured to humanely quarantine or that have clinical signs consistent with rabies.

#### **Bats**

- All bats that have potentially bitten a human/domestic pet must be submitted IMMEDIATELY.
- Specimens are accepted at the rabies lab M-F from 8:30-4:30.
- If specimen arrives after business hours, please hold and refrigerate until the lab is open.
- If a specimen needs to be submitted on a holiday or weekend, please notify the ISDH Duty Officer at 317-233-1325.
- Submit the entire bat to the rabies lab.

#### **Skunks/Raccoons/Coyotes/Foxes**

- These animals have a higher risk of transmitting rabies than other terrestrial animals.
- Submit for testing as soon as the lab is open (M-F 8:30-4:30).
- If the animal bit a human and is displaying symptoms consistent with rabies notify the ISDH Duty Officer at 317-233-1325.
- Submit only the HEAD of these animals and other non-bat animals that are approved for testing.

#### **Livestock/Horses**

- Notify the ISDH at 317-233-7272 or the ISDH duty officer after business hours at 317-233-1325.

#### **Rodents/Lagomorphs (Rabbits)/Opossums**

- These animals are unlikely to transmit rabies.
- Assess the biting situation and if it is unusual or the animal displayed odd behavior notify the ISDH at 317-233-7272 or the ISDH duty officer after business hours at 317-233-1325.
- Testing is not necessary when a bite is provoked from a normal acting rodent or lagomorph.

#### **Packaging of Specimens—see additional instruction sheet for specific information**

- Double bagged leak-proof container (triple bagged for larger specimens).
- Use a sealed refrigerant pack (not wet ice) to keep specimen cold (do not freeze).
- Place clean submission form in a separate sealed bag—the original is filed by ISDH and must be free of contamination. Do not staple this form to any bags or specimens.

Visit us at: [www.jenningscounty-in.gov](http://www.jenningscounty-in.gov)

**Additional Information:** <http://www.in.gov/isdh/20518.htm>