

Rabies Control and Bite Reporting Procedures

BACKGROUND:

All mammals are susceptible to rabies, but only a limited number of species act as reservoir hosts. In the United States the major terrestrial reservoirs are raccoons, skunks, and foxes. Insectivorous bats also serve as reservoirs for the disease. Each rabies variant is maintained in a particular host, and usually dies out during serial passage to species in which it is not adapted. However, any variant can cause rabies in other species. Occasionally, a virus adapted to one species becomes established in another.

The United States is considered canine rabies free, and wildlife is the most important potential source of rabies for both humans and domestic animals. In Southern California, bats are the main source of rabies. Skunk variants of rabies are currently found in Santa Barbara County and Northern California. Bats, skunks, foxes, raccoons, coyotes, and even opossums are all considered potential sources of rabies, based on California and national rabies data. In addition, each year many dogs are imported into the US from countries where the canine variant of rabies still exists.

Reducing the risk of rabies in domestic animals and preventing contact with wildlife reservoirs is key to the prevention of human rabies. California law requires that all owned dogs be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian using approved vaccines (CA Health & Safety Code § 121690, California Code of Regulations, Title 17, Sections 2606.4 and 2606.6).

RABIES VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS FOR DOMESTIC ANIMALS

- The State of California mandates rabies vaccination for dogs, but not for cats. However, some localities require rabies vaccination and/or licensing of cats. A listing of local requirements for licensing and/or rabies vaccination of cats is included in this manual.
- In California, the *minimum* age dogs may receive their first rabies vaccination is **three** months of age. Initial licensing of dogs in California remains at four months of age.
- In cases where rabies vaccination may endanger a dog's life, a licensed veterinarian can submit a rabies vaccination exemption request using the approved forms to the local health officer.

REPORTING BITES AND RABIES SUSPECT ANIMALS

In California, anyone with knowledge of an animal bite to a person must report the incident to the local health department, including veterinarians and their staff.

The following must be reported to VPH immediately:

1. Mammals, domestic or wild, that bite a human
Bites from rabbits, squirrels, rats, mice, gophers, and other rodents are NOT reportable.
2. Domestic mammals (pets or livestock) that have an encounter with wildlife



3. Neurologic animals (wild or domestic) suspected of being rabid

Bite reporting forms are found on the [VPH website](#) and are included in this manual. Email completed forms to vet@ph.lacounty.gov.

QUARANTINE OF BITING ANIMALS (GENERAL)

Once the bite report is received and processed by VPH, the animal is placed under quarantine. For owned animals, quarantines are usually overseen by VPH at the animal's home. Quarantines may be completed at shelters or veterinary clinics (costs may be incurred at owner's expense). Please note that location transfers of quarantined animals (i.e. moving between two separate homes) **are not allowed** except in rare circumstances and with prior approval from VPH. It is always allowable to move a quarantined animal from a home to a shelter or to a veterinary clinic as needed for care and services.

1. QUARANTINE - MAMMALS BITING PEOPLE

Any DOMESTIC animal that bit a person must be quarantined and observed for clinical signs of rabies by VPH staff. This is true regardless of the rabies vaccination status of the biting animal. The animal is under quarantine until VPH staff issues a Quarantine Release Notice. *Domestic animals that are not subject to a rabies quarantine include: rabbits, rodents, birds and reptiles.*

Quarantine Length - For specific quarantine periods, please see the summary flowchart in this manual. Captive exotic mammals that have bitten a human are quarantined at their facility for at least 30 days.

Rabies Vaccination & Booster - For animal bites to humans, DO NOT vaccinate the animal for rabies during the quarantine period.

Euthanasia During Quarantine - Domestic biting animals are **not** to be euthanized until after the quarantine period without prior permission from VPH staff.

- **EXCEPTION** - If the domestic animal is gravely ill or injured, it may be euthanized during the quarantine period for humane reasons without prior permission.
 - In such cases, the head of the animal **must be** submitted appropriately for rabies testing.

2. QUARANTINE - DOMESTIC MAMMALS BITTEN BY WILDLIFE

Whenever possible, the wild animal should be humanely euthanized, prepared and submitted to VPH for rabies testing. If the wild mammal tests negative for rabies, no quarantine of the domestic animal is required. If the wild mammal is not tested or tests positive for rabies, the domestic animal must be quarantined.



Quarantine Length - Dependent on the domestic animal's rabies vaccination status at the time of the bite. For specific quarantine periods, please see summary flowchart.

Rabies Vaccination & Booster - Rabies vaccination and booster recommendations are dependent upon current vaccination status.

- If a domestic mammal is bit by wildlife and is current on rabies vaccination at the time of the bite, VPH recommends a booster immediately, even if the rabies vaccine is not due.
- If a domestic mammal is bit by wildlife and is NOT current on rabies vaccination at the time of the bite, VPH recommends vaccinating immediately post-bite (or when medically stable).
- If a domestic mammal is bit by wildlife and has NEVER had a rabies vaccination, VPH recommends the [Texas protocol](#):
 1. vaccinate immediately after bite
 2. again at week 3, and
 3. again at week 8 post-bite

Euthanasia During Quarantine - Domestic animals that are under quarantine due to wildlife exposure should **not** be euthanized until after the quarantine period without prior permission from VPH staff.

- **EXCEPTION** - If the domestic animal is gravely ill or injured, it may be euthanized during the quarantine period for humane reasons without prior permission.
 - In such cases, the head of the animal **must be** submitted appropriately for rabies testing if euthanized more than 2 weeks after the attack.

3. NEUROLOGIC ANIMAL SUSPECTED OF BEING RABID

For any animal suspected of being rabid (wild or domestic), isolate the animal and **contact VPH immediately at 213-288-7060**. Complete and submit a bite report using a [Bite Report Form](#), even if no bite occurred. Write 'None' in the Person Bitten Field. Neurologic animals suspected of being rabid are placed under strict isolation by VPH. If the animal dies or is euthanized, the animal must be prepared, submitted to VPH, and tested for rabies. If requesting rabies testing, complete the appropriate sections of the [Bite Report Form](#), even if no one was bitten.

RABIES TESTING IN ANIMALS

In LA County, rabies testing is conducted by the Public Health Laboratory at the LA County Department of Public Health.

- Please complete the appropriate rabies submission form and call VPH to arrange a specimen pickup for rabies testing.
- Specimen preparation, including decapitation, must be performed by the facility submitting the sample. Only rabies-vaccinated staff should perform decapitations. See rabies specimen preparation instructions in this manual for more information.



- Exception: Bats are NOT to be decapitated.
- Whenever possible, any WILD mammal that has bitten a human shall be humanely euthanized, prepared, and submitted for rabies testing.

RABIES TESTING IN BATS

- Any bat that may have potentially exposed humans or animals must be reported and tested (e.g. found on a sidewalk, in a public area, outside/inside of a home or business).
- If a bat is found inside the home, and possibly exposed a child or sleeping person it must be reported and tested for rabies, even if a bite is not visualized.
- Bites from bats can be very small, painless, and go unnoticed.
- If clients call to report a bat or bring in a bat to your clinic – please collect their name and contact information because VPH will need to speak with them. Then provide them with the following information:
 - If you see a dead, sick, or injured bat, OR there is a bat that may have bitten a person or animal, **do not touch it or release it. Call your local animal control agency for assistance.**
 - VPH has developed a flyer on bat encounters that you can post or provide to clients – it is included in this manual and is available on our [website](#).

RABIES AND ANIMAL IMPORTATION

Dogs and other animals are imported into LA County through the international pet trade and rescue groups daily. The risk of importing rabies and foreign animal diseases to LA County is real and has occurred. Dogs imported from a country where rabies is present must be vaccinated against rabies at least 30 days before entering the USA. Dogs should be vaccinated as early as 3 months of age and wait 1 additional month in the country of origin prior to entry into the USA.

- Obtain importation and travel information in pet’s history. Pets imported into the US, should undergo a veterinary exam and a 30-day observation period to monitor their health for disease.
- Please visit the CDC website for a list of high-risk countries for canine rabies: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/high-risk.html>
- At time of publication of this manual CDC has issued a temporary suspension for dogs entering the United States from high-risk countries for dog rabies: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/high-risk-dog-ban-frn.html>
 - CDC has the authority to issue a CDC Dog Import Permit for US citizens and lawful residents relocating from high-risk countries to bring their dogs into the United States



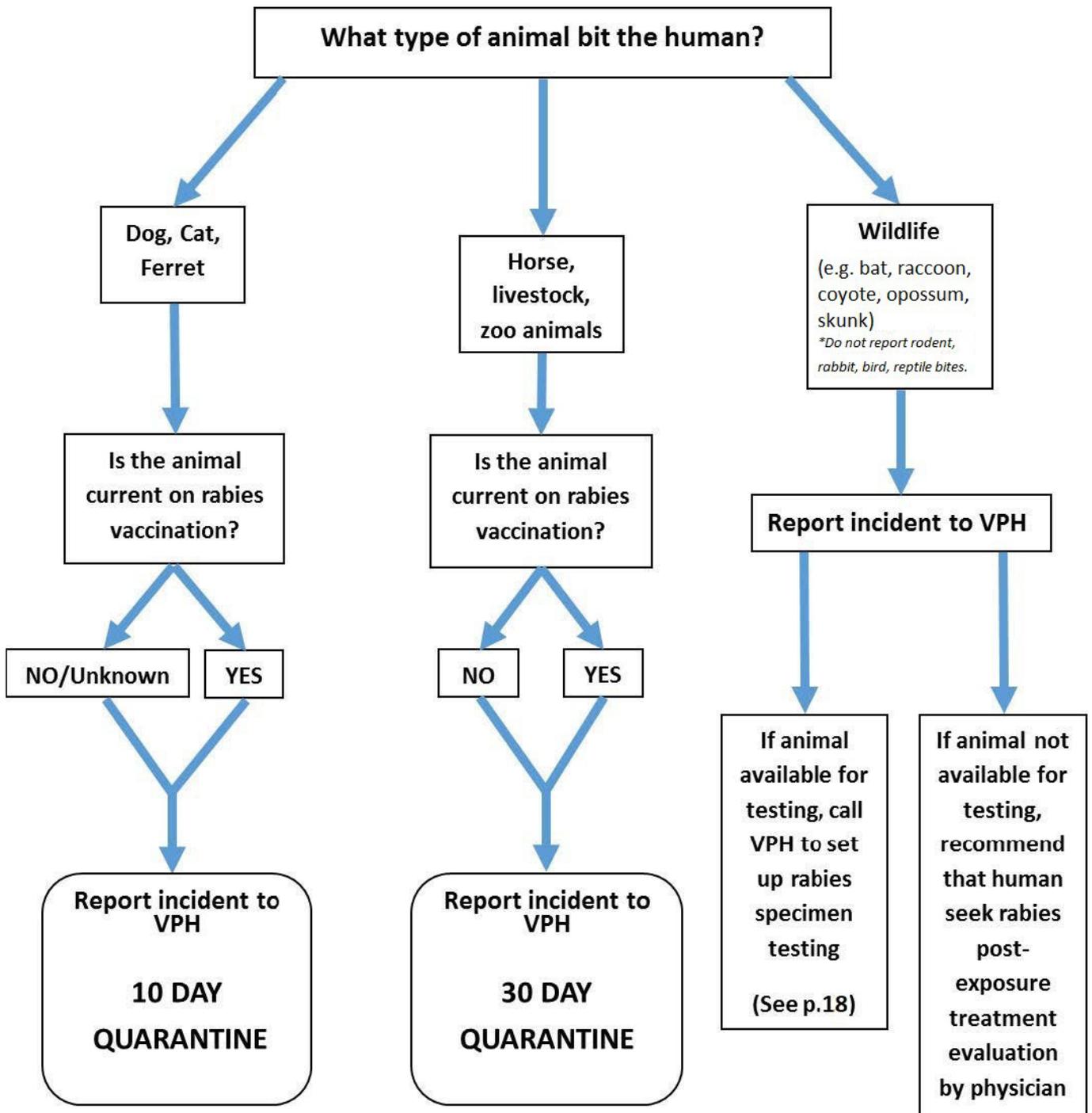
- **Booster the rabies vaccine with a US Licensed Rabies Vaccine approved for use in California.** Even if an imported dog has proof of a rabies vaccine, the rabies vaccine must be licensed for use in the United States and approved for use in California. For a list of approved rabies vaccines, please see the California Department of Public Health’s Rabies Compendium: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/PartIIITableCACompendiumofRabiesControl.pdf>.
- **If any imported dog or other animal is sick, consider foreign animal diseases, including rabies.** If you suspect rabies or any other infectious disease, report to VPH immediately.

ADDITIONAL RABIES RESOURCES

1. California Department of Public Health (CDPH), California Compendium of Rabies Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/CACompendiumofRabiesControlandPrevention.pdf>
2. National Association of State and Local Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2016. <http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendiaRabies.html>
3. LA County Department of Public Health, What to Do If You Have a Bat Encounter: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/batinhouse.htm>



RABIES CONTROL FLOWCHART FOR HUMAN BITTEN BY ANIMAL

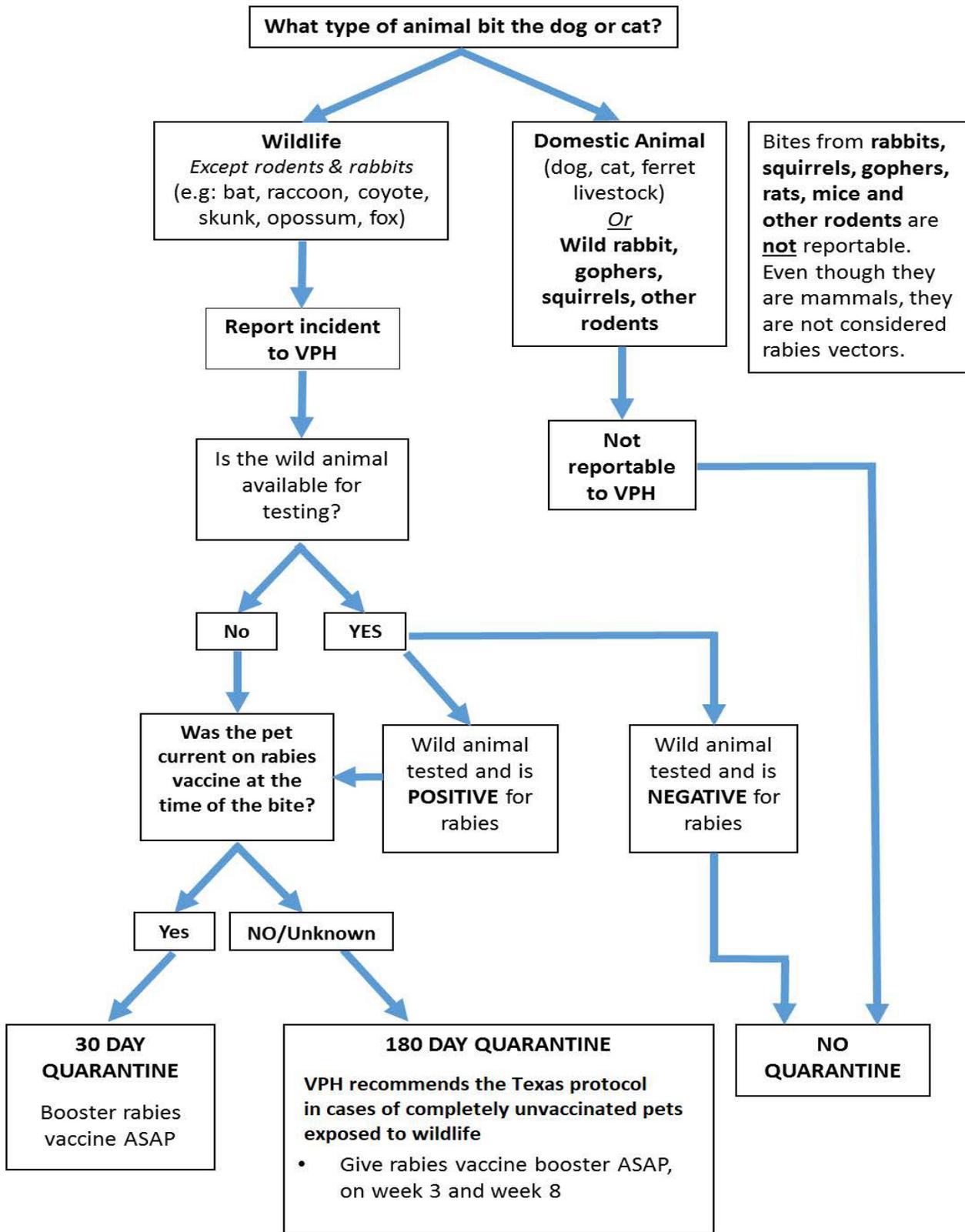


Bites from rodents, rabbits, birds, and reptiles are not reportable to VPH

Report all neurologic animals suspected of being rabid to VPH at (213) 288-7060



RABIES CONTROL FLOWCHART FOR DOMESTIC ANIMAL BITTEN BY ANIMAL



PREPARING A SPECIMEN FOR RABIES TESTING

Note: Healthy animals may not be euthanized during the quarantine period.

Specimens that are inappropriately packaged or missing the appropriate reporting form will be rejected from the Public Health Lab. It is the responsibility of the veterinary clinic to pick up the specimen and resubmit it immediately.

STEP 1 Dogs/cats/wildlife must be decapitated, except bats

- Do not decapitate a bat! Submit the whole body.

STEP 2 Apply flea/tick spray to the specimen

STEP 3 Specimen must be wrapped in absorbent paper and double-bagged

- Only one specimen per bag (do not place more than one bat in a bag)
- The specimen and blood should not be visible through the bag
- Place into a box or an opaque container

STEP 4 Securely affix appropriate reporting form to the specimen container

- Impound cards or cage cards are not acceptable
- Do not leave paperwork resting on top or beneath a specimen

STEP 5 Place specimen into the fridge (do not freeze)

- Do not place specimens next to food/vaccines
- Check the fridge temperature to ensure that it is working (unrefrigerated/decomposed specimens may be untestable)

STEP 6 Email/fax the reporting form to VPH (Note 'Pick up' in the top corner)

- Email – vet@ph.lacounty.gov
- Fax – 213-481-2375

STEP 7 Call VPH for pick-up

- Phone – 213-288-7060 (M-F 8am-5pm)
- If you notice a specimen in the fridge for a few days, please call again for pick-up





VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM
Animal Bite Reporting Form
Animal Control, Shelters & Veterinary Clinics



Instructions: Use this form to report animal bites to the Veterinary Public Health Program at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. For more information about rabies in Los Angeles County, visit our website: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/>.

Date form completed: _____ **Please submit completed form to [vet@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:veter@ph.lacounty.gov) OR fax to (213) 481-2375.**

1. REPORT INFORMATION					
Report date:	Reporter name (victim, owner, etc.):	Reporter phone #:	Reporter email:		
2. SHELTER/VETERINARY CLINIC TAKING REPORT					
Facility submitting report:		Submitter's name:		Facility phone #:	
3. PERSON BITTEN					
Bite victim first name:		Bite victim last name:		Date of birth:	
Street address (building #, street name, apt/unit#):			City:	State:	Zip code:
Bite victim phone #:		Bite victim email address:			
4. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT					
Date bitten:	Time bitten (AM/PM):	Country where incident occurred (if not US):			
Street address where incident occurred:			City:	State:	Zip code:
How bite occurred (explain):					
5. HUMAN INJURY INFORMATION					
Location of bite(s) (e.g. face, leg, hand, torso):		Side of body affected: <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Date treated:	
Description of treatment:					
Treating facility/provider name:	Provider phone number:	Hospitalized: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Hospital name:	
6. ANIMAL OWNER					
Animal owner first name:		Animal owner last name:			
Street address (building #, street name, apt/unit#):			City:	State:	Zip code:
Animal owner phone #:		Animal owner email address:			
7. BITING ANIMAL INFORMATION					
Biting animal species: <input type="checkbox"/> Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		Breed:	Age:	Animal sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Unk	Sterilized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk
Animal name:	Animal color:	Animal vaccinated for rabies? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk		Date last vaccinated for rabies:	
Animal died: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If yes, reason:		Specimen prepared for rabies testing: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		
Euthanized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Animal licensed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk		Jurisdiction animal licensed in:		License number:
Expiration Date:		Animal impounded: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Shelter:	Impound #:
Cage:		8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS:			



VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

Domestic vs Wild Mammal Incident Report Form



Instructions: Use this form to report domestic vs wild mammal incidents to the Veterinary Public Health Program at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. For more information about rabies in Los Angeles County, visit our website: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet>.

Date form completed: _____ Please submit completed form to vet@ph.lacounty.gov OR fax to (213) 481-2375.

1. REPORT INFORMATION					
Report date:	Reporter name (victim, owner, etc.):	Reporter phone #:	Reporter email:		
2. AGENCY/CLINIC TAKING REPORT					
Facility submitting report:		Submitter name:		Facility phone #:	
3. WILD ANIMAL INFORMATION					
Type of wild animal: <input type="checkbox"/> Coyote <input type="checkbox"/> Skunk <input type="checkbox"/> Bat <input type="checkbox"/> Raccoon <input type="checkbox"/> Opossum <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			Wild animal status: <input type="checkbox"/> Left area/not located <input type="checkbox"/> Appeared sick <input type="checkbox"/> Captured/destroyed/died		
Specimen prepared for rabies testing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		Location of specimen (clinic/shelter):		Impound #:	Date euthanized:
4. DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT					
Date bitten:		Time bitten (AM/PM):		Country where incident occurred (if not US):	
Street address where incident occurred:			City:	State:	Zip code:
How bite occurred (explain):					
Type of injury to domestic animal:					
5. DOMESTIC ANIMAL OWNER					
Animal owner first name:			Animal owner last name:		
Street address (building #, street name, apt/unit#):			City:	State:	Zip code:
Animal owner phone #:			Animal owner email address:		
6. DOMESTIC ANIMAL INFORMATION					
Domestic animal species: <input type="checkbox"/> Dog <input type="checkbox"/> Cat <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		Breed:	Age:	Sex: <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> Unk	Sterilized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk
Animal name:	Animal color:	Animal died: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Euthanized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		If Y, reason:	
Rabies vaccine currently up to date: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk			Date of last vaccine:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 yr vax <input type="checkbox"/> 3 yr vax	
Rabies vaccinated <i>after</i> wildlife contact: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk			Date of re-vaccination after wildlife contact:		
Animal licensed: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk		Jurisdiction animal licensed in:		License number:	Expiration Date:
Current location of animal: <input type="checkbox"/> Home address <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary clinic <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____					
Animal impounded: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		Shelter:		Impound #:	Cage:
7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/COMMENTS:					



VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

Bat Submission Form for Rabies Testing



Use this form to report bats being submitted to the Veterinary Public Health Program at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for rabies testing. For more information about rabies in Los Angeles County, visit our website: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet>.

Bat Submission Instructions:

- **All bats submitted to animal shelters/veterinary clinics must be reported to Public Health immediately. Complete form with as much information as possible. Submit completed form to vet@ph.lacounty.gov OR fax to (213) 481-2375.**
- **DO NOT DECAPITATE bat specimen.**
- **Refrigerate bat after it is deceased. DO NOT FREEZE.**

1. Reporting Agency:			
Shelter/Clinic Name:			
Phone:		Date bat reported to Public Health:	
Staff member/ACO:		Bat Impound #:	
2. Person Who Found the Bat			
Name of Person Who Found Bat:		Phone:	
3. When/Where Was the Bat Found?			
Date bat found:		Name of business (if applicable):	
Street address where found:		City:	State: Zip code:
Type of location where bat found (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Camp <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> School <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____			
4. Details of the Bat Encounter			
Describe how the bat was found, and where on the property:			
Was the bat found (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Indoors* or <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors			
Time of capture/pickup:		Method used to capture bat:	
When captured, was the bat (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Alive** or <input type="checkbox"/> Dead?			
5. Contact with the Bat			
Did any people or animals have <i>potential</i> physical contact with bat? (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes* <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown			

***List ALL persons and/or pets that had direct contact with the bat OR that were indoors with the bat.**

Name(s):	Addresses:	Phone:

****List any shelter/clinic staff who had contact with the bat (e.g. during euthanasia, if applicable)**

Name(s):	Phone:

ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCIES AND SHELTERS IN LA COUNTY

Agency	Telephone Number	Address	On-site Shelter
Avalon City Hall – Code Enforcement	(310) 510-0220 ext 111	PO Box 707, Avalon, CA 90704	No
Beverly Hills Animal Control	(310) 285-1119	455 N Rexford Dr, 1st Floor, Beverly Hills, CA 90210	No
Best Friends (Mission Hills location)	(818) 643-3989	15321 Brand Ave, Mission Hills, CA 91345	Yes
Best Friends (NKLA – West LA location)	(424) 208-8840	1845 Pontius Ave, West L.A. 90025	Yes
Burbank Animal Control	(818) 238-3340	1150 N. Victory Pl, Burbank, CA 91502	Yes
City of Commerce Animal Control	(323) 887-4460	2535 Commerce Way, Commerce, CA 90040	No
Culver City Animal Services	(310) 253-6143	4040 Duquesne Ave, Culver City, CA. 90232	No
Duarte City Animal Control	(626) 357-7938	1042 E. Huntington Dr, Duarte, CA 91010	No
El Monte Animal Control	(626) 580-2081	11333 Valley Blvd, El Monte, CA 91731	No
El Segundo Animal Control	(310) 524-2231	348 Main St, El Segundo, CA 90245	No
Hawthorne Animal Control	(310) 675-4444	4455 W 126 th St., Hawthorne, CA 90250	No
Hermosa Beach Animal Control	(310) 524-2750	1035 Valley Dr, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254	No
Huntington Park City Animal Control	(323) 826-6682	6542 Miles Ave., Huntington Park, CA 90255	No
Inland Valley Humane Society	(909) 623-9777	500 Humane Way, Pomona, CA 91766	Yes
La Puente Animal Control Division	(626) 855-1555	15900 E Main Street, La Puente, CA 91744	No
Lawndale Animal Control Division	(310) 973-3220	14717 Burin Ave, Lawndale, CA 90260	No
Long Beach Animal Care Services	(562) 570-7387	7700 E. Spring St, Long Beach, CA 90815	Yes
Lynwood Animal Control Division	(310) 603-0220 ext 271	11330 Bullis Rd, Lynwood, CA 90262	No
City of Los Angeles Animal Services			
Chesterfield Square (South LA) Shelter	(888) 452-7381	1850 W. 60th St. Los Angeles, CA 90047	Yes
East Valley Shelter	(888) 452-7381	14409 Vanowen St, Van Nuys, CA 91405	Yes
Harbor Shelter	(888) 452-7381	957 N. Gaffey St., San Pedro, CA 90731	Yes
North Central Shelter	(888) 452-7381	3201 Lacy St, Los Angeles, CA 90031	Yes
West Los Angeles Shelter	(888) 452-7381	11361 W. Pico Bl, Los Angeles, CA 90064	Yes
West Valley Shelter	(888) 452-7381	20655 Plummer Street, Chatsworth, CA 91311	Yes
LA County Dept. of Animal Care & Control			
Agoura Shelter	(818) 991-0071	29525 Agoura Rd, Agoura, CA 91301	Yes
Baldwin Park Shelter	(626) 962-3577	4275 N. Elton St, Baldwin Park, CA 91706	Yes
Carson Shelter	(310) 523-9566	216 W. Victoria Ave, Carson, CA 90748	Yes
Castaic Shelter	(661) 257-3191	31044 N. Charlie Canyon Rd, Castaic, CA 91310	Yes



Downey Shelter	(562) 940-6898	11258 S. Garfield Ave, Downey, CA 90242	Yes
Lancaster Shelter	(661) 940-4191	5210 W. Avenue I, Lancaster, CA 93536	Yes
Palmdale Shelter	(661) 575-2888	38550 Sierra Hwy, Palmdale, CA 93550	Yes
Manhattan Beach Animal Control	(310) 802-5160	420 15th St, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266	No
Monterey Park Animal Services	(626) 573-1311	320 W. Newmark, Monterey Park, CA 90640	No
Pasadena Humane Society	(626) 792-7151	361 S. Raymond Ave, Pasadena, CA 91105	Yes
Redondo Beach City Animal Control	(310) 318-0611	415 Diamond St, Door 2, Redondo Beach, CA 90277	No
Rolling Hills City Hall	(310) 377-1521	2 Portuguese Bend Rd, Rolling Hills, CA 90274	No
Rosemead Animal Control Services	(626) 569-2292	8301 E. Garvey Ave, Rosemead, CA 91770	No
San Gabriel Valley Humane Society	(626) 286-1159	851 E. Grand Ave, San Gabriel, CA 91776	Yes
Santa Fe Springs Animal Control Police	(562) 409-1850	11576 Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670	No
Santa Monica Animal Control	(310) 458-8594	1640 9th St, Santa Monica, CA 90404	Yes
Southeast Area Animal Control Authority (SEAACA)	(562) 803-3301	9777 Seaaca St, Downey, CA 90241	Yes
spcaLA South Bay Pet Adoption Center	(310) 676-1149	12910 Yukon Ave, Hawthorne, CA 90250	Yes
Temple City Animal Control	(626) 285-7187	9701 Las Tunas Dr, Temple City, CA 91780	No
Torrance Animal Control	(310) 618-3850	2200 Jefferson St, Torrance, CA 90501	No
City of Vernon Animal Control	(323) 583-8811 ext 231	4305 Santa Fe Ave, Vernon CA 90058	No
West Hollywood Animal Care and Control	(323) 848-6882	8300 Santa Monica Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90069	No



VETERINARIAN REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT RABIES VACCINATION CERTIFICATES TO LOCAL ANIMAL CONTROL AGENCIES

Many cities in LA County have laws requiring veterinarians to submit copies of rabies certificates to their local animal control authority. Veterinarians that vaccinate animals against rabies in cities/areas where submission of certificates is required must submit copies of the rabies certificate to the appropriate local animal control agency. A summary of which cities/areas require this is listed below (please note this may be subject to change):

Cities/Areas that REQUIRE veterinarians to submit copies of the rabies certificates to Animal Control:

Agoura Hills	El Monte	Lawndale	Signal Hill*
Alhambra	El Segundo*	Lomita	South El Monte*
Artesia	Gardena	Long Beach*	Temple City*
Azusa	Glendale*	Los Angeles, City*	Torrance
Baldwin Park	Glendora*	Lynwood	Walnut
Bell	Hawaiian Gardens	Malibu	West Covina*
Beverly Hills*	Hawthorne	Maywood	West Hollywood
Bradbury*	Hermosa Beach*	Monterey Park	Westlake Village
Burbank*	Hidden Hills	Palmdale	Whittier
Calabasas	Industry	Palos Verdes Estates	
Carson	Inglewood	Pomona*	Unincorporated areas of LA County
Cerritos*	Irwindale	Rancho Palos Verdes	
Claremont*	La Cañada Flintridge*	Redondo Beach	
Compton	La Habra Heights	Rolling Hills	
Covina	La Mirada	Rolling Hills Estates	
Cudahy	La Puente	San Fernando	
Culver City	La Verne*	Santa Clarita	
Diamond Bar*	Lancaster	Sierra Madre*	

*Cities are served by provider as noted in the table below. All other cities listed above (without *) are served by the County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control.

Designated Providers for Animal Services	
City	Provider
Beverly Hills	LA Animal Services
Bradbury	Pasadena Humane Society
Burbank	City of Burbank
Cerritos	Long Beach Animal Care Services
Claremont	Inland Valley Humane Society
Diamond Bar	Inland Valley Humane Society
El Segundo	City of El Segundo
Glendale	City of Glendale



City	Provider
Glendora	Inland Valley Humane Society
La Cañada Flintridge	Pasadena Humane Society
La Verne	Inland Valley Humane Society
Long Beach	Long Beach Animal Care Services
Los Angeles (City of)	LA Animal Services
Pomona	Inland Valley Humane Society
Sierra Madre	Pasadena Humane Society
Signal Hill	Long Beach Animal Care Services
South El Monte	SEAACA
Temple City	San Gabriel Valley Humane Society
West Covina	Inland Valley Humane Society

Cities/Areas that DO NOT REQUIRE veterinarians to submit copies of the rabies certificates to the animal control agency:

Arcadia	Huntington Park	Pasadena	Santa Monica
Avalon	Lakewood	Pico Rivera	South Gate
Bell Gardens	Manhattan Beach	Rosemead	South Pasadena
Bellflower	Monrovia	San Dimas	Vernon
Commerce	Montebello	San Gabriel	
Downey	Norwalk	San Marino	
Duarte	Paramount	Santa Fe Springs	



CAT RABIES VACCINATION & LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Although California State Law does not require rabies vaccination of cats, it is highly recommended. A County of Los Angeles ordinance exists requiring rabies vaccination and licensing of cats. Certain cities uphold this ordinance, requiring cats to be vaccinated for rabies and/or licensed (based on owner address, not address of the veterinary clinic). Information regarding licensing in certain cities can be obtained by calling local shelters or animal control services divisions.

A summary of requirements for licensing and rabies vaccination by city is listed below. Information is based on review of city municipal codes in 2018. City laws are subject to change. Cat owners are encouraged to contact their city for the latest regulations.

REQUIRE BOTH cat rabies vaccination and cat licensing:

Artesia	El Segundo	La Verne	San Fernando
Baldwin Park	Hawaiian Gardens	Lancaster	Sierra Madre
Bell	Hidden Hills	Lawndale	Walnut
Bradbury	Industry	Lomita	West Hollywood
Calabasas	Inglewood	Long Beach	Westlake Village
Carson	Irwindale	Malibu	Whittier
Compton	La Cañada Flintridge	Maywood	
Cudahy	La Habra Heights	Palmdale	Unincorporated
El Monte	La Mirada	Pomona	Areas of LA County

Cities of LA County that REQUIRE cat rabies vaccination but do NOT require cat licensing:

Agoura Hills	Gardena	Monterey Park	Rolling Hills Estates
Alhambra	La Puente	Palos Verdes Estates	West Covina
Covina	Lynwood	Ranchos Palos Verdes	

Cities of LA County that do NOT require cat rabies vaccination but REQUIRE cat licensing:

Diamond Bar	Santa Clarita
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Cities of LA County that do NOT require cat rabies vaccination or cat licensing:

Arcadia	Commerce	Lakewood	Redondo Beach	South El Monte
Avalon	Culver City	Los Angeles, City	Rolling Hills	South Gate
Azusa	Duarte	Manhattan Beach	Rosemead	South Pasadena
Bell Gardens	Downey	Monrovia	San Dimas	Temple City
Bellflower	Glendale	Montebello	San Gabriel	Torrance
Beverly Hills	Glendora	Norwalk	San Marino	Vernon
Burbank	Hermosa Beach	Paramount	Santa Fe Springs	
Cerritos	Hawthorne	Pasadena	Santa Monica	
Claremont	Huntington Park	Pico Rivera	Signal Hill	



CANINE RABIES VACCINATION EXEMPTIONS

KEY MESSAGES

- Canine rabies vaccination exemption applications and all related communications will only be accepted from veterinarians, not dog owners.
- Exemptions are only valid for one year.
- Applications will be automatically denied if missing any of the following: the local and state forms and relevant medical records (5 page maximum).

In LA County (except in Pasadena, Long Beach and Vernon), the authority to grant rabies vaccination exemptions for dogs is delegated to VPH. California law states that a rabies vaccination exemption may be granted if “a rabies vaccination would endanger the dog’s life.” It also requires that the condition warranting the exemption be documented. This state law applies for dogs only. Local jurisdictions may enact similar requirements for licensing of cats. Contact your local animal control for cat-related rabies vaccine or licensing concerns. The entire law is available at:

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml> (Health and Safety Code 121690).

Canine rabies vaccination exemption requests must be submitted to VPH by the veterinarian, not the dog owner. A complete exemption request includes BOTH forms, dog owner’s signature, veterinarian’s signature AND up to 5 pages of medical records documenting the dog’s medical condition related to the request. Incomplete exemption requests will be denied.

Only health conditions that fit the evidence-based criteria for exemption may be approved. Dogs approved for a rabies vaccine exemption are considered unvaccinated and must abide by [rabies laws for unvaccinated pets](#). Exemptions are only valid for 1-year and an application must be submitted each year for renewal. Permanent exemptions do not exist. California does not accept positive rabies titers in lieu of a rabies vaccine.

STEPS TO SUBMIT A CANINE RABIES VACCINATION EXEMPTION REQUEST

1. For dogs living in LA County (except Pasadena, Long Beach, or Vernon), canine rabies vaccination exemption requests are submitted by a veterinarian (not the dog owner) to VPH.
 - a. For dogs living in Pasadena, contact the Pasadena Humane Society at 626-792-7151.
 - b. For dogs living in Long Beach, contact Long Beach Animal Care Services, at 562-570-7387, or visit: longbeach.gov/acs/pet-laws-and-licensing/canine-rabies-exemption/
 - c. For dogs living in Vernon, contact the Southeast Area Animal control authority (SEAACA) at 562-803-3301.
 - d. Cat owners should contact their city to inquire about procedures for getting an exemption.



2. Prior to completing the forms, review the sections below of cases that may be approved and cases that will not be approved.
3. Complete BOTH Canine Rabies Vaccination Exemption Request forms AND submit with **up to 5 pages of medical records documenting the dog's medical condition related to the request**. Incomplete submissions will be automatically denied. A letter from a veterinarian is not considered a replacement for appropriate medical records.
 - a. Completed requests can be emailed to vet@ph.lacounty.gov (preferred) or faxed to (213) 481-2375.
 - b. Blank exemption forms are only available by request by calling our office at 213-288-7060 or by email: vet@ph.lacounty.gov.
4. VPH strives to process the request within 5 business days. A written decision if the request was approved or denied will be provided to the submitting veterinarian by email or fax. Outside of that timeframe, if you do not hear back from VPH about a submitted request, please call our office at 213-288-7060 or email at vet@ph.lacounty.gov.

WHAT TO DO AFTER AN EXEMPTION REQUEST IS APPROVED OR DENIED

It is the applying veterinarian's responsibility to relay the approved or denied notice to the pet owner once the notice is received.

1. Provide copies of the final document (Approved or Denied) to your client.
2. Inform your clients that, if their exemption request is approved, their dog:
 - a. Will be considered at higher risk for contracting rabies and will be considered legally unvaccinated. This means the animal will be subject to a California state-mandated 180-day quarantine if exposed to a wild animal.
 - b. Must be confined at home, or on a 6-foot-long leash controlled by an adult.
 - c. Cannot live or have contact with other animals not vaccinated for rabies. Only one dog in a household can have a rabies vaccination exemption.
3. The exemption is valid for one year only, after which the dog must either be vaccinated for rabies, or another full request must be submitted and approved.
4. If the exemption is denied due to missing information, new rabies vaccination exemption forms must be completed and submitted for reconsideration.



CASES WHERE RABIES VACCINATION EXEMPTION MAY BE APPROVED

- Life-threatening anaphylactic reaction soon after administration of a rabies vaccine
 - Signs consistent with anaphylactic shock
 - Mild facial angioedema, hives, or localized reactions do **not** qualify as life-threatening
- Immune-Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA), **if**:
 - Dog is still within first year after diagnosis, or
 - Onset was within 1 month of a rabies vaccination, or
 - More than one episode (i.e. documented relapses)
- Polyradiculoneuropathy if:
 - Dog is still within the first year after diagnosis, or
 - Onset was within 1 month after rabies vaccination
- Dog currently on immunosuppressive therapy for cancer or immune-mediated disease
 - Low dose prednisone is not considered immunosuppressive therapy
- Terminal prognosis
 - Dog has fewer than 3 months to live in the opinion of presiding veterinarian
 - Must be specifically documented in the medical record

CASES WHERE RABIES VACCINATION EXEMPTION WILL NOT BE APPROVED

- Old age
- Positive rabies antibody titers (California does not recognize rabies titers in lieu of a rabies vaccine)
- Minor or moderate reactions (including injection site reactions) to rabies vaccination
- Reaction to vaccinations other than rabies
- History of neoplasia and dog is not currently on immunosuppressive therapy
- Medical condition not documented, or no documentation submitted
- Short-term exemptions (e.g. 1 month exemption for recovery from acute illness). In such cases, work with the Animal Control or other licensing agency to request a temporary delay.
- Illegible or incomplete requests



VETERINARIANS:

Rabies exemption request forms are not available online.

Please contact VPH for copies of the Canine Rabies Vaccination Exemption forms.

Phone: 213-288-7060

Email: vet@ph.lacounty.gov

Completed forms will only be accepted from veterinarians.



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RABIES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY

KEY MESSAGES

- Keep all pets, including indoor cats, up to date with their rabies vaccination
- Bats are the number one source of rabies in Southern California
- Do NOT touch any bat with bare hands – call your local animal control agency immediately to report a bat and have it collected for rabies testing

BACKGROUND

Rabies in bats is prevalent throughout the United States. In recent years, many other wildlife species in California have tested positive for rabies and are considered potential sources of the virus. In 2014, a skunk tested positive for rabies in the city of Long Beach – the skunk was found to have been infected with a Mexican free-tailed bat variant of rabies. All bats reported to and collected by VPH are submitted for rabies testing. We are most concerned about bats acting abnormally (e.g. out during the daytime, weak, found unmoving on the ground or clinging to walls, unable to fly, etc.), bats found near people or pets, and bats found inside of homes or businesses.

LOCAL DATA

The number of rabid bats detected is increasing (Figure 1). Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, an average of 9-10 bats tested positive for rabies per year in LA County. Since 2010, that number has risen to 34 per year. The year 2021 was a record year for rabid bats in LA County: there were 68 laboratory confirmed rabid bats in LA County and 323 bats tested in LA County by the Public Health Laboratory (21% positive). The cause of the increase is unknown. One hypothesis is that climate change and more extreme weather patterns are causing bats to move closer to areas irrigated by people to find insects to eat.

RABID BATS BY YEAR, LA COUNTY, 1961 - 2021

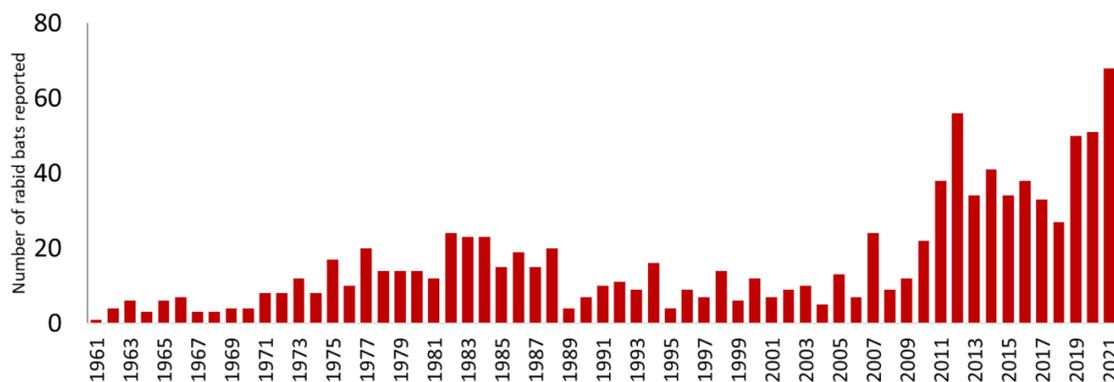


Figure 1: Laboratory confirmed rabid bats in LA County from 1961 - 2021



Rabid bats can be found in densely populated areas. Most rabid bats are found in suburban areas, and occasionally in highly urban areas (Figure 2). In 2021, more than a third of the 68 rabid bats found in LA County were found in the city of Santa Clarita. It is unknown if there is a higher incidence of rabid bats in this area, or if the residents are more likely to report bats for rabies testing.

REPORTED CASES OF BAT RABIES BY LOCATION FOUND, LA COUNTY, 2021

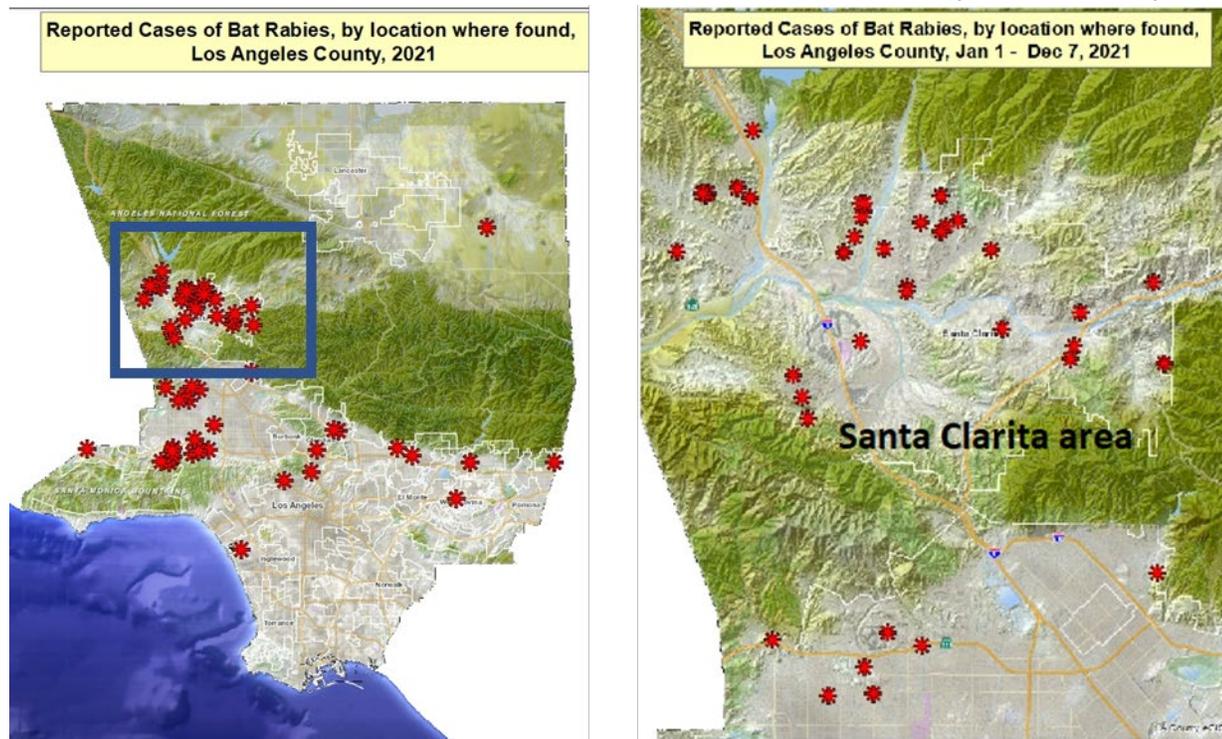


Figure 2: Map of location bat was found for reported cases of bat rabies in LA County during 2021. Map zoomed to show the Santa Clarita area where most rabid bats were found.

Most rabid bats are found at private homes, and some are found indoors. In 2021, 82% of rabid bats were found at private homes, usually in the yard or side of the house. Even pets that do not go outside can be exposed to rabies. Three rabid bats were found on sidewalks, four inside homes and three inside businesses.

Imported pets can bring rabies into LA County. In 2004, a rabid dog was imported through LAX from Thailand, and in 1987 a rabid cat was brought here from Mexico. Hundreds of dogs are imported into our county every year, with many being from countries where the canine rabies variant is still found.

If a bat is found near children, pets, or sleeping people, an unrecognized bite may have occurred because bats have tiny teeth, and the bat should be tested for rabies. Any time a bat is found indoors,



and it is unknown how long it was indoors, it should be tested for rabies if any sleeping or otherwise vulnerable people are in the building.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Vaccinate pets, including indoor cats.** Indoor cats can easily be attracted to a bat in a home and be exposed to rabies. Every year, at least one confirmed rabid bat is found inside a home in LA County.
- **Educate your clients.** If they find a bat in their home, they should NOT touch it with bare hands or release it. They should cover it with a bucket or box if possible and call animal control to collect it for rabies testing. If a bat is found in a room where someone was sleeping or near a pet, there is no way to know if that person or pet was bitten.
 - To read more about what to do if a bat is found in the home, visit: publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/batinhouse.htm
 - For a printable flyer (available in English and Spanish) on what to do if you find a bat, visit:
 - English: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/images/RabiesOutreach/WhatToDoIfYouFindABatColorPrint.pdf>
 - Spanish: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/images/RabiesOutreach/WhatToDoIfYouFindABatColorPrintSpanish.pdf>
- **Make sure to ask your clients if their pet was recently imported.** While rabies is not likely to be found in local dogs, the risk of rabies may be higher in imported dogs. Be suspicious of rabies if you are seeing a sick dog coming from other countries, especially from places where canine rabies is common.
 - For an updated list of rabies risk worldwide, please visit the CDC website listing import countries and rabies risk: <https://www.cdc.gov/importation/bringing-an-animal-into-the-united-states/high-risk.html>

For additional information on Rabies in LA County, please visit:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/rabies.htm>

