

Domestic animals (pets) bitten by wild mammal

My dog was not up to date with his rabies vaccination (it was late by just two days) when he got into a fight with a raccoon. How long is his quarantine period?

Domestic animals bitten by wild mammals that are not up to date with their rabies vaccination at the time of the incident are quarantined for 180 days.

Domestic animals bitten by wild mammals that are up to date with their rabies vaccination at the time of the incident are quarantined for 30 days.

The dog killed the raccoon during the fight and the raccoon's body is sitting in the owner's yard. What should animal control do?

If the wild mammal is available for testing, impound the raccoon body, decapitate the specimen and place it into the VPH fridge for pick-up. Attach the domestic v. wild mammal report form to the specimen. Call VPH for pick-up. VPH will have the raccoon specimen tested for rabies. If it comes back rabies negative, the dog does not have to be quarantined. If the raccoon come back rabies positive the dog will be quarantined for 180 days since he was not up to date with his rabies vaccination at the time of the fight.

I have a stray cat that was bitten by a coyote and needs to complete a 180 day quarantine at the shelter. What are my options?

If the cat has never had a rabies vaccination before, follow the Texas protocol: Booster the rabies vaccination immediately after the incident, then again 3 weeks post- incident, and again 8 weeks post-incident. After the Texas protocol has been completed, consider Medical Foster of the cat (foster out to a home to complete the remainder of the quarantine). Fill out the appropriate forms then contact VPH. An inspector will ensure the home is suitable for quarantine. The animal remains the property of the shelter and must always be transported by the shelter ONLY. After the quarantine period is complete, the cat can be released to the foster or adopted out.

This owned dog was up to date with his rabies vaccination at the time of the fight with an opossum. The opossum ran away. What should I do?

1. Fill out the domestic vs wild mammal report form
2. Quarantine the dog for 30 days (at home or at shelter if owner surrenders it)
3. Booster the rabies vaccination after the incident (even in this case where the dog was up to date already).