

Rabies Quarantine

When does quarantine of an animal start?

It starts the day of the bite. Even if the day of the bite is a weekend or holiday.

Where can animals be quarantined?

Most quarantines are done at home. Quarantines are done at the shelter if the animal was stray at the time of the bite or is surrendered by the owner.

Quarantines can also be done at a vet clinic while under treatment.

How do I know when an animal is released from quarantine?

The inspector covering your shelter will release it from quarantine either in person, on the phone or by email. If you have questions about an animal under quarantine, call VPH at 213-288-7060.

How do I know that an animal is under quarantine?

A red sign is placed on the kennel to warn others that the animal is under rabies quarantine and should not be handled and should not have access to bite people or other animals.

I noticed something odd with a dog/cat under quarantine. What should I do?

Notify VPH immediately if any of the following happens to an animal under quarantine:

- Animal dies or becomes ill
- Animal is euthanized
- Animal changes location (surrendered animal impounded changing it from home QT to shelter QT)

If the dog or cat that bit someone is up to date with their rabies vaccination, do they still have to be quarantined?

Yes. All animals that bite humans, regardless of rabies vaccination status are to be quarantined. Except for non-reportable cases (birds, reptiles, rodents, rabbits, squirrels).

When can I euthanize an animal that bit a human?

Healthy dogs/cats cannot be euthanized during the 10 day quarantine period after biting a human. VPH must grant permission for cases where the animal is to be euthanized early. Only gravely ill or injured animals may be euthanized during the quarantine period (eg – hit by car) without VPH permission. If the animal dies or is euthanized before the end of quarantine, the specimen must be decapitated and submitted for rabies testing.

What is medical foster?

Some animals that are quarantined for long periods of time (180 days) may be eligible for medical foster (outside of the shelter). Pets should have received a rabies booster or the Texas protocol prior to being fostered out. Remember that fostered animals are still the responsibility of the shelter for transport, and cannot be adopted out until released from quarantine by VPH. See the package in this binder for the applicable forms. Call VPH with questions.