



# RABIES

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF PET OWNER FOR ANIMAL FOLLOW UP

As described in the Juneau County Animal Bite Order, you are responsible for the following:

The Wisconsin Rabies Control Law requires that a dog or cat which has bitten a person must be delivered to a veterinarian within twenty-four (24) hours after receipt of this notice for examination and quarantine of not less than 10 days at the expense of the owner. Please contact me at 847-9373 with the name of the veterinarian and clinic who examined your animal as soon as the animal is seen.

If the animal is currently immunized against rabies as evidenced by a valid vaccination certificate, the animal may be quarantined on the premises of the owner following the initial examination by a veterinarian. An animal that is quarantined at home shall be returned to a veterinarian for additional examinations on the 10<sup>th</sup> day following the bite and on one intervening day. You will need to contact me at 847-9373 each time the animal is seen by the veterinarian. If we do not hear from you, we will assume you did not take your animal in and will report your non-compliance to the Juneau County Sheriff's Department.

If no valid evidence of vaccination can be displayed, the dog or cat shall be impounded by the veterinarian or at an isolation facility for at least 10 days at the owner's expense. Please contact me with the name of the veterinarian/clinic who will be impounding the animal by the second day of impoundment. Prior to releasing the animal, rabies vaccination should be completed. We will want to know the lot number and date of vaccination.

Once examinations shall be completed by a veterinarian-they will then complete the examination certificate. Return the signed Veterinarian's Certificate to the Juneau County Health Department, 220 East State Street, Room 104, Mauston, WI 53948.

Please contact the Health Department at 847-9373 if you have any questions or concerns regarding this important and necessary follow-up.

### **PENALTY FOR FAILING TO COMPLY WITH QUARANTINE REQUIREMENTS –**

State statute provides for a fine of \$100 - \$1,000 or 60 days imprisonment or both for failure to comply with a quarantine order. ***The owner of the animal is responsible for all expenses incurred in connection with the rabies quarantine.***

**FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH QUARANTINE COULD RESULT IN A FINE AND/OR IMPRISONMENT- SEEN FIT BY THE REPORTING OFFICER.**

## **WHY IS THE 10-DAY QUARANTINE PERIOD NECESSARY?**

- Rabies is a fatal infection of the central nervous system of warm-blooded animals, including humans. It is transmitted through the bite of an animal that has the virus in its saliva, or more rarely by contamination of an open cut or mucous membrane (eyes, nostrils, mouth) with the saliva of a rabid animal.
- When a healthy-appearing dog or cat bites a person, there is a remote possibility that the dog or cat could be in the infectious stage of the disease without showing signs of rabies. (That is, the animal could have the rabies virus in its saliva.) In these rare cases, the animal will develop recognizable signs of rabies in a few days allowing time to treat the victim preventatively for rabies exposure.
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- The 10-day quarantine period ensures that the dog or cat remains available so that it can be observed for signs of rabies. If the animal remains well during the 10-days, this indicates it did not have the rabies virus in its saliva at the time of the bite, and therefore the bite victim does not have to receive an extensive series of shots to prevent rabies. This is why it is so important that the dog or cat under quarantine be strictly confined at all times to ensure that it cannot run away or be injured.
- The 10-day confinement and observation period for dogs and cats that bite humans has stood the test of time as a way to prevent human rabies. This quarantine period avoids the need to destroy the biting dog or cat in order to test its brain for the rabies virus.