

**JUNEAU COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
RABIES PROTOCOL**

1. PHN will do investigations on all reported animal bites with a significant/potential exposure. Significant exposure is defined as:
  - Human bitten by animal species which is a known rabies reservoir.
  - Contact of infective material (saliva, brain tissue, and cerebral spinal fluid) with human mucous membrane or wound (scratches, abrasions, open wounds). Contact with blood, urine, or feces does not constitute a significant exposure.

Potential exposure is defined as:

  - Animals which have exposed domestic or farm animals which may in turn infect humans.
  - Domestic and farm animals in which there is a clinical suspicion of rabies as judged by a veterinarian.
2. The following areas should be addressed:
  - Person who received bite/exposure contacted and assessed to see if proper medical care was given (Tetanus status checked and encouraged, if needed). If unable to contact by phone, send out letter. (Enclosure #1)
  - Pet owner contacted per phone or letter describing their responsibilities. (Enclosure #2)
3. In case where animal is to be submitted for testing, use enclosure #3 to determine fee exempt status.
4. On 15th day, all reports and/or verbal contacts not received from pet owners are relayed to Sheriff's Dept. with statistics on when owner was contacted, what was explained to owner, what has or has not been done by owner and what actions have been taken by local health officer. (Enclosure #4)
5. Utilize Division of Health regulations and flow sheet as to when to pursue rabies treatment. Inform client that this is a decision that needs to be made between them and their physician. PHN does not decide treatment.
6. PHN will contact the physician of anyone receiving treatment and update physician on:
  - Status of animal
  - Current protocol of State Lab of Hygiene
  - The epidemiological follow-up regarding other potential human exposure.

7. Upon completion of investigation, PHN will:
  - Inform victim of animal's negative or positive status by veterinarian or lab and, if necessary, other follow-up needed. (Enclosure #5)
  - Contact physician if victim is receiving treatment.
8. See Ordinance 90-02 regarding rabies control program locally. (Enclosure #6)