# RABIES PROTOCOL

**MANAGEMENT OF DOGS & CATS EXPOSED TO OTHER DOMESTIC ANIMALS**

(Wolf Hybrids and other exotic pets are considered to be wild animals)

Vaccination Status of Exposing Animal Not Relevant to Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exposure Category</th>
<th>Exposed Dog or Cat is Currently Vaccinated</th>
<th>Exposed Dog or Cat is Not Currently Vaccinated</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Category 1</td>
<td>1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector &lt;br&gt;2. Biting animal will be placed under strict confinement for 10 days &lt;br&gt;3. A) If biting animal is healthy at the end of 10 days, victim is not at risk for rabies &lt;br&gt;3. B) If biting animal begins to exhibit signs compatible with rabies, biting animal should be euthanized and submitted for rabies testing &lt;br&gt;4. A) If test results are negative, victim is not at risk for rabies &lt;br&gt;4. B) If test results are positive, &lt;br&gt;1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector &lt;br&gt;2. Booster victim immediately &lt;br&gt;3. Strict Confinement by owner for 45 days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Category 2</td>
<td>1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector &lt;br&gt;2. Booster immediately &lt;br&gt;3. Strict Confinement for 45 days</td>
<td>1. Notify local director of health and local animal inspector &lt;br&gt;2. Vaccinate immediately &lt;br&gt;3. Strict Confinement for 4 months</td>
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- Any non-domestic animal biting a human needs to be reported to the Department of Public Health
- Do not vaccinate any dog or cat which is under a 10-day quarantine
- Any animal euthanized while under a 10-day quarantine MUST be submitted for rabies testing
- If most recent rabies vaccination was administered within 28 days, it is not necessary to booster

1. “Not Currently Vaccinated” means there is proof that the animal has received a rabies vaccination at some point prior, but the duration that vaccine was good for has been exceeded.
2. “Unvaccinated” means the animal has never received a rabies vaccine, or the first shot was administered less than 28 days ago.
3. Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology: (617) 983-6800

*This document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, Division of Animal Health*

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**Questions?** (617) 626-1810