**Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH)**

**Species Considerations For Rabies Testing**

**Category 1**

**ALWAYS test following human or domestic animal exposure**

Species in this group are

either known rabies vectors or are considered likely to have the potential to transmit rabies.

**Bat**

**Bear Beaver Bobcat Coyote Fisher Fox Otter Raccoon Skunk**

**Woodchuck**

**Category 2**

**Test following human or domestic animal exposure if 10-day quarantine is not possible or not appropriate** (i.e., animal is already ill)

Species in this group can only transmit rabies up to 10 days before showing symptoms.

**Cat Cow Dog Ferret**

For exposures involving an animal species not specifically listed OR unusual circumstances, consultation with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Division of Epidemiology and Immunization is available 24/7 at 617-983-6800.

**Category 3**

**Requires MDPH or MDAR\* approval for testing** (handled case by case)

Species in this group are occasionally found to be rabid although bites from these animals have never resulted in a human case of rabies in the United States.

**Alpaca/llama Chinchilla Deer**

**Domestic/pet rabbit Goat**

**Guinea pig Horse Mink Moose Muskrat Opossum Pig Porcupine Sheep Squirrel Weasel**

**Category 4**

**Rabies testing NOT indicated**

Species in this group are

virtually never found to be rabid and bites from these animals have never resulted in a human case of rabies in the United States.

**Chipmunk Gerbil Hamster Mole Mouse Rat Shrew Vole**

**Wild rabbit/ Cottontail**

\*Massachusetts Department

of Agricultural Resources: 617-626-1810

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