

Mission Statement

The Virginia Beach Police Department is committed to providing a safe community and improving the quality of life for all people. We accomplish this by delivering quality police services and enforcing laws with equity and impartiality. In partnership with the community, we reduce crime through public education, prevention, and awareness. In meeting this objective, we demand of ourselves the highest professional standards and dedication to our core values.

If an exposure has occurred or there is a question whether or not an exposure has occurred ...

**Report it to
Animal Control
within 24-hours.**

Virginia Beach Police Department
Animal Control/Animal Enforcement Unit
2664 Leroy Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
Phone: 757-385-6580

***Professionalism, Respect, Integrity,
Dedication, Excellence
P.R.I.D.E.***

After
The
Bite ...



Virginia Beach Police Department
Animal Control
Animal Enforcement Unit

Has an Exposure Occurred?

For reporting purposes, an exposure is a bit or scratch from an animal that causes a break in the skin. An exposure may also consist of being exposed to the saliva of the animal. Any person who has been in contact with a bat, or in the same room as a bat, should also be considered to have been exposed.

If an exposure has occurred or there is a question whether or not an exposure has occurred, report it to Animal Control with 24-hours.

City code requires all exposures should be reported within 24-hours. Responsibility is mutually charged to attending physicians, veterinarians, the owner of the biting animal, and the person who has been bitten.

Confinement

State law requires the biting animal to be confined under competent observation for a period of 10-days, unless the animal develops active symptoms of rabies or expires before the confinement period has elapsed. Animals that show symptoms of rabies or that expire, will be sent for rabies testing.

Where Will the Animal Be Confined?

Location of confinement is at the discretion of the Animal Control Officer. The animal may be confined to its home, the Virginia Beach Animal Control shelter facility, or another suitable location.

Why is the Animal Confined for 10-Days?

Rabies can only be transmitted in saliva or central nervous system tissue. By the time the affected animal is transmitting the virus, they are in the advanced stages of the virus. They will become sick or die within 10-days of being able to transmit the virus.

After the Confinement Period

After the 10-day period has elapsed, the animal is evaluated by the City Health Department. Animals that appear to be in good health are released from confinement and are considered to not be transmitting the rabies virus. The Health Department then issues a letter to the victim, advising that the biting animal has successfully completed the confinement period.

Does the Biting Animal Have a Current Rabies Vaccination?

State law requires that all cats and dogs over the age of 4-months to have a rabies vaccination administered by a licensed veterinarian. The animal's vaccination status is a legal issue and does not affect the medical treatment of the bite victim. As vaccinations are not 100% effective, all biting animals are required to be confined to ensure they are not exhibiting symptoms of rabies.

Each exposure case is different; they are handled based on the merits of the individual case.

- Rabies is a medical urgency, not an emergency, but a decision must not be delayed.
- Any wounds should be immediately washed and medical attention should be sought from a health care professional for any trauma due to an animal attack, before considering the need for rabies vaccinations.

Animal Type to Postexposure Prophylaxis Table (<http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/exposure/types.html>)

Animal Type	Evaluation & Disposition of Animal	Postexposure Prophylaxis Recommendations
Dogs, cats, ferrets	Healthy and available for 10-day observation	Persons should not begin vaccinations unless animal develops clinical signs of rabies
	Rabid or suspected rabid	Immediately vaccinate
	Unknown (escaped)	Consult public health officials
Raccoons, skunks, foxes and most other carnivores; Bats	Regarded as rabid unless animal is proven negative by laboratory test	Consider immediate vaccination
Livestock, horses, rodents, rabbits and hares, and other mammals	Consider individually	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult public health officials • Bites of squirrels, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rats, mice, other small rodents, rabbits and hares almost never require rabies postexposure prophylaxis.