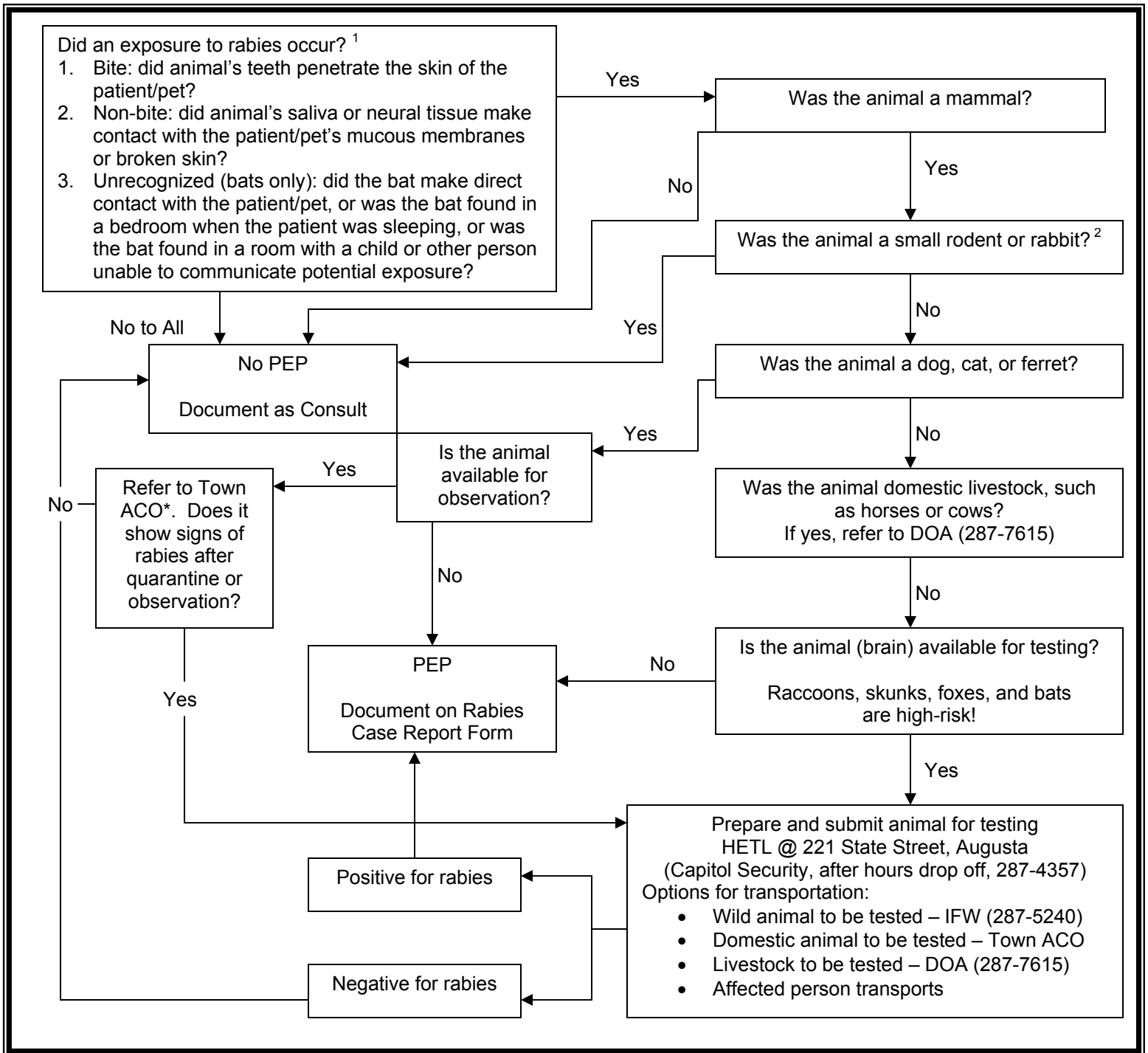


Algorithm for rabies exposure assessment – Maine, 2010

Adapted from CE Rupprecht, RV Gibbons. Prophylaxis against Rabies. NEJM 2004;351:2626-35.



1. Bites from bats and high-risk wild mammals (e.g. raccoons, skunks, and foxes) warrant consideration of immediate post-exposure prophylaxes (PEP). In case of direct contact between human and bat, the possibility of a bite should be considered unless the exposed person can be reasonably certain that a bite did not occur. PEP should be considered for persons who were in the same room as a bat and who might be unaware, or unable to communicate, that a bite had occurred.
2. Rabies has rarely been diagnosed in small mammals such as rabbits and small rodents (e.g., squirrels, chipmunks, rats, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, and mice). Rabbits kept in outdoor hutches may be exposed to rabies; consult Maine CDC (1-800-821-5821) when evaluating potential exposures associated with rabbits in hutches. Rabies has been reported in large rodents (e.g., beavers, woodchucks, etc.) in areas where terrestrial rabies is enzootic.
3. Epidemiologists with questions about rabies exposure assessments may contact Medical Epidemiology, ID Epi Program Manager, or Rabies Surveillance Epidemiologist for assistance.

*** Table 1: Management of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets Exposed to Rabies**

Exposure Category	Vaccinated[§]	Non-Vaccinated[¶]
Direct contact or visible bite from known rabid animal	1. Booster immediately* 2. Notify ACO 3. Observe[‡] for 45 days	1. Euthanize 2. If owner unwilling: a. Notify ACO b. Quarantine for 6 months c. Vaccinate on entry or 1 month before release
Direct contact with or visible bite or wound from suspect rabid animal (unavailable for testing)	1. Booster immediately* 2. Notify ACO 3. Observe[‡] for 45 days	1. Euthanize 2. If owner unwilling: a. Notify ACO b. Quarantine for 6 months c. Vaccinate on entry or 1 month before release
Wound of unknown origin: suspicious scratch, bite, abscess or wound	1. Booster immediately* 2. Notify ACO 3. Observe[‡] for 45 days	1. Euthanize 2. If owner unwilling: a. Notify ACO b. Quarantine for 6 months c. Vaccinate on entry or 1 month before release
Exposure by proximity (seen near or in same vicinity of known rabid animal) - no contact or wounds	1. Consider booster* 2. Observe[‡] for 45 days	1. Vaccinate at once 2. Observe[‡] for 6 months

Table 2: Management of Livestock Exposed to Rabies

Exposure Category	Vaccinated[§]	Non-Vaccinated[¶]
Direct contact or visible bite from known rabid animal	1. Booster immediately* 2. Notify ACO 3. Observe[‡] for 45 days	1. Euthanize 2. If owner unwilling: a. Notify ACO b. Quarantine for 6 months c. Consider vaccination on entry or 1 month before release
Direct contact with or visible bite or wound from suspect rabid animal (unavailable for testing)	1. Booster immediately* 2. Notify ACO 3. Observe[‡] for 45 days	1. Euthanize 2. If owner unwilling: a. Notify ACO b. Quarantine for 6 months c. Consider vaccination on entry or 1 month before release
Wound of unknown origin: suspicious scratch, bite, abscess or wound	1. Booster immediately* 2. Notify ACO 3. Observe[‡] for 45 days	1. Euthanize 2. If owner unwilling: a. Notify ACO b. Quarantine for 6 months c. Consider vaccination on entry or 1 month before release
Exposure by proximity (seen near or in same vicinity of known rabid animal) - no contact or wounds	1. Consider booster* 2. Observe[‡] for 45 days	1. Vaccinate at once 2. Observe for 6 months

* If most recent rabies vaccination was given within 1 month, it is not necessary to re-vaccinate.

§ Currently vaccinated animals: at least 30 days has elapsed since the initial vaccination, and the duration of vaccination has not exceeded the time period recommended for that species and brand of vaccine.

¶ Unvaccinated animals: no previous rabies vaccination, first vaccination was given within the last 30 days, last vaccination has expired (per vaccine manufacturer's recommendations), or no approved vaccine exists for the species.

‡ Observe: to watch carefully especially with attention to details or behavior for the early identification of any signs of illness. If signs suggestive of rabies develop, the animal should be examined immediately by a veterinarian.