



State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
Center for Community Health

Post-Exposure Protocol for Unvaccinated Dogs, Cats or Ferrets

An unvaccinated dog, cat, or ferret that is exposed to a wild animal, but the rabies status of the wild animal is unknown and the wild animal is not available for testing, should be immediately vaccinated against rabies, placed in confinement for 90 days, and given booster vaccinations during the third and eighth weeks of confinement. For young animals, additional vaccinations may be necessary to ensure that the animal receives at least two vaccinations at or after the age prescribed by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the vaccine administered.

Confinement can be done at the home of the owner. Please ask the owner to keep the animal securely confined to the house and limit exposure of the animal to only a few caretakers. If the pet becomes ill during this confinement period, a veterinarian should be consulted immediately and information on the status of the animal should be provided to the veterinarian.

Questions regarding this document should be directed to Gary A. Balsamo, DVM, MPH&TM, State Public Health Veterinarian, Department of Health and Hospitals. (Created March 21, 2011)