



**DUPAGE
COUNTY**

ANIMAL SERVICES

Bite Case Procedures – Animal to Human Bites

DuPage County Animal Services is the authority that enforces laws related to biting animals. The basis for these laws is the protection of the bite victim's health through the control of rabies. The biting animal's health is assessed through a series of examinations and observations of the biting animal by a veterinarian for ten (10) days following the bite.

The following guidelines are taken from the Code of DuPage County, Chapter 5: Animals:

Definition: **Bite** - Seizure of a person with the jaws or teeth of any cat, dog or other animal capable of transmitting rabies so that the person so seized has been wounded or pierced and further includes contact of the saliva of such cat, dog or other animal with any break or abrasion of the skin.

The owner of a biting animal shall have the animal confined under the observation of a licensed veterinarian for a period of ten (10) days beginning within twenty-four (24) hours of the biting incident. The biting animal may be confined in the house of its owner in a manner, which will prohibit it from biting any person or animal if the Administrator or other licensed veterinarian adjudges such confinement satisfactory.

All biting dogs and cats owned by a resident of DuPage County, shall be implanted with a microchip approved by the Administrator at the time of the first examination unless the animal is to be euthanized. The microchip number shall be reported to DuPage Animal Services with the DuPage County rabies observation notice (attached).

- When the biting animal is currently inoculated with rabies vaccine, the animal's health shall be reported to the DuPage County Animal Services on the first and tenth days for the observation period via Rabies Observation Confinement Notice and Release Notice cards.
- When the biting animal is not currently inoculated with rabies vaccine, the health of the animal shall be reported to DuPage County Animal Services on the first, fifth, and tenth days of the observation period via Rabies Observation Confinement Notice and Release Notice cards.
- When the biting animal is not currently inoculated with rabies vaccine and the owner refuses to have the animal examined by a veterinarian, DuPage County Animal Services may impound the animal for a period of ten (10) days. If the animal cannot be impounded, a court appearance will be scheduled.
- If the first veterinary examination is taking place ten or more days after the bite, the veterinarian shall, at that time, also complete the DuPage County rabies observation notice release form. Both forms shall be sent to DuPage County Animal Services within twenty-four (24) hours of the examination.

It is unlawful for a biting animal to be sold, given away, euthanized, or otherwise disposed of prior to the 10-day R/O completion. The only instance where euthanasia prior to completing the 10-day R/O process is acceptable is when the animal specimen is collected and tested for rabies.





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It is also unlawful to have the animal inoculated against rabies if it is known to have bitten a person, until it has been released from confinement for rabies observation.

Upon determination by the Administrator or a licensed veterinarian that an animal may be infected with rabies, the owner of such animal shall be required to surrender the animal to the Administrator or a licensed veterinarian for confinement for a period of time as determined by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

When the confined animal is determined to be infected with rabies by the examining veterinarian, the Administrator shall order the animal humanely euthanized and tested for rabies. Any animal capable of transmitting rabies in direct contact with the rabid animal, whether or not the exposed animal has been inoculated with rabies, shall be confined as recommended by the Administrator. The Administrator may order the exposed animal euthanized and tested for rabies.

If an animal that has bitten a person dies, is accidentally killed, or is humanely euthanized before the tenth day following the bite, it shall be prepped as a specimen and sent to the local Public Health Laboratory for rabies virus analysis.

Special Procedures for Unusual Groups

Family Bites: Family Defined - Owners of animals capable of transmitting rabies that have bitten members of the immediate family residing in the same household as the animal. Immediate family consists of mother, father, children, husband or wife residing at the same address. The biting animal does not require a rabies observation at this time, but shall be confined so as not to expose people or other animals for a period of ten (10) days. The owner of the biting animal is required to provide DuPage County Animal Services with the biting animal's current rabies inoculation information. If the biting animal is not currently inoculated with rabies vaccines, it shall be inoculated following a ten (10) day home-confinement.

Caged Animals: Owners of caged rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, rats, and mice that have been owned over thirty (30) days shall not require a veterinary examination following a bite to a person, but shall report the health of the animal by telephone or in person to DuPage County Animal Services on the first and tenth day following the bite.

Large Animals: Cattle, sheep, swine, and horses that have bitten a person shall be confined to the owner's property and examined by a veterinarian on the first and tenth days after a bite.

Stray Animals: Stray animals that have bitten a person shall be apprehended and held for ten (10) days or less. When the biting stray is not held for ten (10) days, it shall be humanely euthanized unless otherwise directed by the Administrator and tested for rabies.

Dog vs. Dog Bites: When a dog bites another dog, the owner of the biting dog is required to report the animal's current rabies inoculation information to DuPage County Animal Services.





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Report ALL Bites

Owners of biting animal, regardless of the reason for the bite, must recognize that all bites must be reported to protect the bite victim's health.

This includes:

- Bites to humans
- Bites to humans (family members)
- Dog vs. dog bites (present or examination of injuries or for incidents occurring at your facility)
- Bites to veterinarians or staff during examination
- All rabies observation procedures are to take place at the pet owner's expense

Mandatory Impoundment Following a Bite

The DCAS Administrator may order a biting animal to be impounded following a bite:

- If bite occurs within ten (10) days of a previous bite (Impoundment may occur at client's personal veterinarian office or DuPage County Animal Services)
- If the biting animal is not submitted for the required veterinary examination following the bite (Impoundment may occur at client's personal veterinarian office or DuPage County Animal Services)
- If a bite is subsequent or inflicts serious physical injury on a human or another dog (Impoundment may occur at DuPage County Animal Services for "dangerous" or "vicious" dog investigation)
- All impoundments and rabies observations procedures are to take place at the owner's expense

Completed Paperwork Must Be Submitted Within 24 hours

Failure to submit Rabies Observation forms or incomplete forms (missing dates, no rabies inoculation information or microchip number missing) will result in a citation with a mandatory court appearance for your client.

Submitting Specimens for Lab Testing

A copy of the ILDPH Rabies Submission Form is included in this packet. Feel free to copy and use as needed. Please note: "*submitting agency*" is *DuPage County Animal Services, not the animal hospital*. Please include two copies of the rabies specimen submittal form when submitting a specimen for testing.





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Submitting Specimens: There is a \$125.00 specimen processing fee for every prepped and packaged specimen submitted through our agency. DCAS offers specimen preparation and processing for a fee of \$200.00. Pick-up services are available for a \$50.00 fee. See enclosed ILDPH Guidelines for Submission of Rabies Specimens for additional details on how to properly prepare and package a specimen for lab testing.

Positive Lab Results: If positive rabies results are received from the laboratory, DCAS will contact you immediately.

Negative Lab Results: Negative results are not received by DCAS for 48-72 hours after specimen submittal. You must call DCAS for negative rabies results for each specimen submitted.

DuPage County Animal Services shall provide animal hospitals with the DuPage County Rabies Observation and Confinement forms. The Rabies Observation and Confinement form can also be accessed and submitted online via the DCAS Veterinarian Resources Site at:

<https://www.dupageco.org/AnimalServices/Veterinarian/>

For more information, please refer to the Code of DuPage County, Chapter 5.

