

Confinement and Reporting Procedures for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets involved in a biting incident.

State law requires a report to be completed to determine potential exposure to rabies, under the Public Health Code, Act 368 of 1978. This usually occurs in the jurisdiction where the biting incident occurred and where the owner of the animal resides. When reporting an animal bite or exposure the Animal Exposure Intake Form must be completed and returned to the Local Health Department. The Animal Exposure Intake form is located at <https://www.mmdhd.org/cd-program/>

The animal must be placed in a 10-day confinement. Frequently asked questions are provided below:

What is included on the Animal Exposure Intake form?

The report will contain the following information:

- Victim (name, birth date, address, phone number, details of incident, injuries sustained, and medical treatment received).
- Owner (name, address, phone number).
- Animal (name, breed, gender, color, spay/neuter status, location of animal, veterinarian, rabies vaccination, disposition of the animal/quarantine information).

Does a currently vaccinated animal have to be confined? Yes, regardless of vaccination status, by law any domestic dog, cat or ferret that bites a person shall be confined. Owners of animals involved in bites/exposures are required to confine their animal(s) for rabies observation for a minimum of ten (10) days. Animal Control has the authority to authorize home confinement.

Why is the animal confined for 10 days? Most domestic dogs and cats in Michigan are not infected with rabies. However, if the animal was not exhibiting signs of rabies at the time of the bite, 10 days is the established observation period required to determine if the animal was infected and shedding rabies at the time of the bite.

Can the animal be confined at the owner's home? Yes, the conditions stated on back of the form are recommended for implementation of a 10-day home confinement.

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Implementation of 10-Day Confinement

- ❖ Biting animal is normal and healthy at onset of quarantine.
- ❖ Bite was provoked.
- ❖ There is no history of bite incidents (such as a repeat-offender dangerous dog).
- ❖ Owner agrees to confine the animal at all times, supervise in fenced yard area or leash-walk. The animal shall be confined inside a structure (an escape-proof environment), not on a chain or in a fenced yard.
- ❖ Owner agrees to isolate the animal from people (except the primary caretaker) and other animals.
- ❖ The animal shall not leave the confinement premises for any reason, except to receive emergency veterinarian care. In such case, the veterinarian will be advised of the confinement. The animal shall not have contact with humans or other animals during the 10-day period, with the exception of the primary caretaker. Animal may be taken outside for relief/void, provided they remain on a six (6) foot or shorter leash and are immediately returned inside to confinement.
- ❖ DO NOT kill the animal, dispose of it, or remove from the property before the 10 day confinement is up without first discussing it with Animal Control.
- ❖ The animal will not be vaccinated during the confinement period.
- ❖ If not currently vaccinated, the animal shall be vaccinated against rabies at the end of the 10-day confinement period.
- ❖ If the animal was not current on rabies, after the expiration of the 10 day rabies confinement period you must:
 1. Get a Rabies vaccine at your vet clinic
 2. Bring vaccine record to Animal Control
 3. Purchase a Michigan Dog License if not current
- ❖ **Michigan state law requires ALL dogs in Michigan to have a valid rabies vaccine and dog license.**
- ❖ If your pet has been injured by another animal, contact your veterinarian for appropriate treatment.
- ❖ New medications should not be given during the confinement period.
- ❖ Owner agrees to monitor the animal daily for changes in behavior or health, and Animal Control shall be notified immediately should any changes occur or if the animal dies. If the animal dies, the owner will surrender the body for rabies testing.
- ❖ At the first sign of illness in the animal the owner shall notify Animal Control. Symptoms to watch for include fever, loss of appetite, excessive irritability, unusual vocalization, change in behavior, restlessness, jumping at noises, trouble walking, excessive salivation, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, stupors, or unprovoked aggression.
- ❖ Any animal euthanized while under a 10-day confinement MUST be submitted for rabies testing.
- ❖ Any animal that dies during the confinement period for any reason shall be submitted by Animal Control to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Laboratories for testing. (The local health department can assist with transport of specimen to the State Rabies Lab.)
- ❖ Animal Control may make unannounced visits to your home to examine the animal's health; the final examination to release from confinement shall be after the 10th day (240 hours) from the bite incident.
- ❖ ***At the end of the 10-day confinement period, the owner is responsible for contacting Animal Control to report the health status of the animal.***
- ❖ I understand that confinement is from:
_____ through _____
As provided by Animal Control and/or the Local Health Department.
- ❖ ***Communicating with Animal Control/Mid-Michigan District Health Department on the health status of your pet at the end of the confinement period avoids having to refer the bitten individual for unnecessary and costly Rabies Post Exposure Treatment.***
- ❖ Questions regarding medical treatment and advice should be directed to your family physician. Concerns regarding tetanus toxoid and/or rabies post exposure prophylaxis may be addressed by your physician or local health department.
- ❖ Report will be closed and filed after the confinement is over.