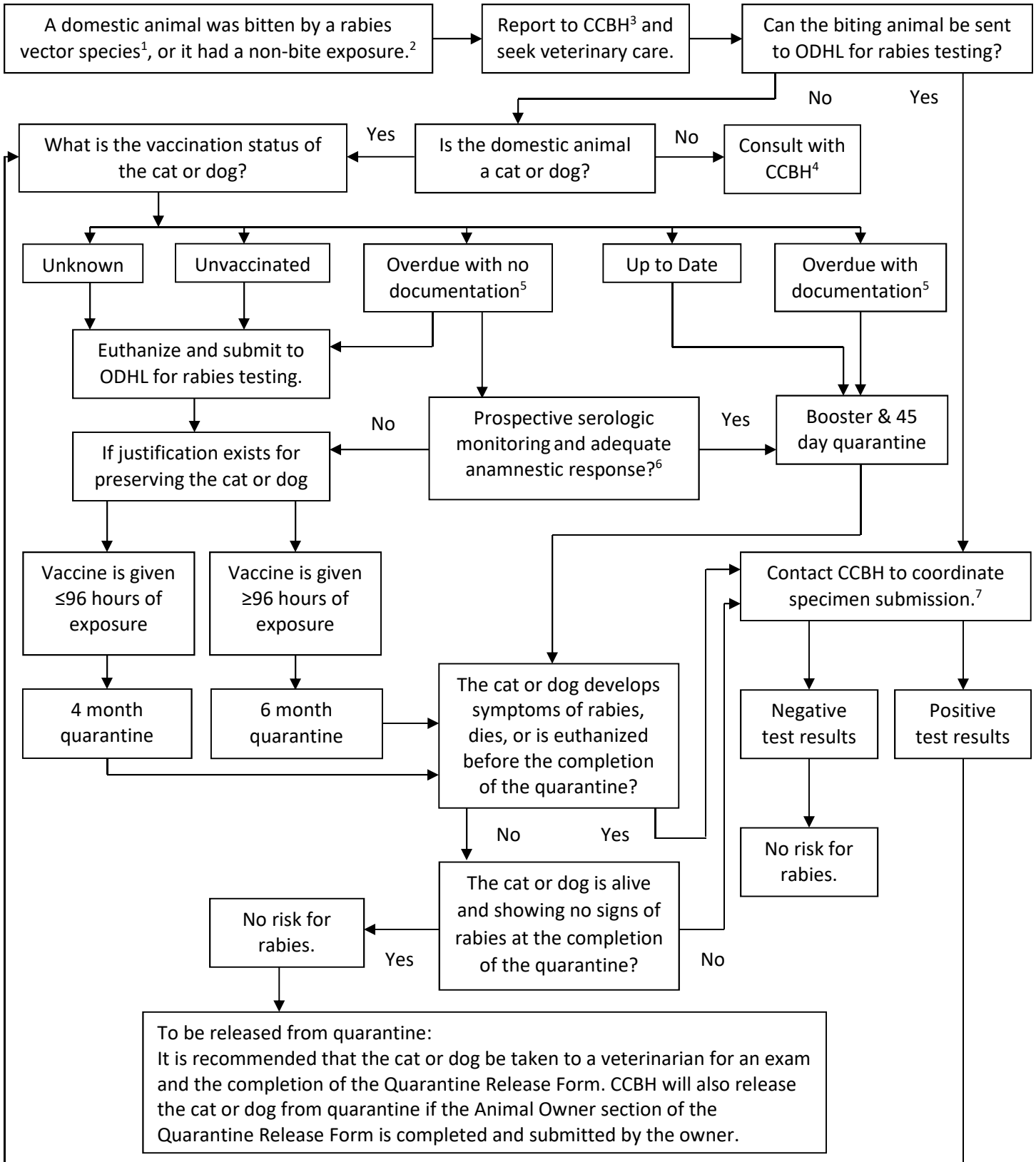


## Rabies Exposure Algorithm for Domestic Animals



<sup>1</sup> Rabies vector species are animals that can carry and transmit rabies and include the following:

- Domestic animals: alpaca, cat, cow, dog, donkey, goat, horse, llama, mule, pig, and sheep
- Wild animals: includes badger, bat, bear, beaver, bison, bobcat, cat hybrid, coyote, deer, elk, ermine, fisher, fox, lynx, marten, mink, monkey, moose, mountain lion, muskrat, opossum, otter, porcupine, puma/cougar, raccoon, skunk, weasel, wolf, wolf/dog hybrid, wolverine, and woodchuck. When possible, wild rabies vector species should always be submitted to ODHL for rabies testing.

Note: birds, amphibians, and reptiles are not rabies vector species. Chipmunk, gerbil, gopher, guinea pig, hamster, hare, hedgehog, mole, mouse, rabbit, rat, shrew, squirrel, and vole are rarely infected with rabies, and transmission to humans has not been observed. However, any mammal has the potential to be infected with and transmit rabies. If the animal is suspect, then consult with CCBH to assess risk criteria.

<sup>2</sup> Non-bite exposure is the introduction of infected saliva into an open wound or mucous membrane or via a wet scratch.

<sup>3</sup> Per Ohio Administrative Code and CCBH Regulations, animal bite and non-bite exposure incidents must be reported to CCBH within 24 hours, by completing the Animal Bite & Exposure Report form, <https://ccbh.net/rabies-downloads/> and sending by email to [rabies@ccbh.net](mailto:rabies@ccbh.net) or by fax to 216-676-1317. For incidents in Cleveland, fax to 216-348-7359.

<sup>4</sup> Animal quarantine or testing should be conducted for other domestic rabies vector species. Rabies vaccination for livestock and horses is not a requirement, but highly recommended.

Rabies Vaccination Status	Ferrets	Livestock & Horses	Other
<b>Unvaccinated or Unknown</b>	Euthanize and submit specimen for testing <sup>7</sup>	Euthanize and submit specimen for testing <sup>7</sup>	For other domestic rabies vector species, consult with CCBH & ODH to assess risk
	If justification exists for preserving the animal, then 6 month quarantine	If justification exists for preserving the animal, then 6 month quarantine	
<b>Up to Date</b>	Booster & 45 day quarantine	Booster & 45 day quarantine	
<b>Overdue</b>	Consult with CCBH & ODH to assess risk	Consult with CCBH & ODH to assess risk	

<sup>5</sup> An approved rabies vaccine is one that is USDA licensed & administered by or under the supervision of a veterinarian.

- Proof of vaccination is confirmed by a valid rabies vaccination certificate.
- Cats, dogs, and ferrets that reside within CCBH jurisdiction are required to have a current rabies vaccination.
- Regardless of the age of the animal at its initial vaccination, a booster should be administered one year later.
- A previously vaccinated animal is considered up to date immediately after a booster, even if it was overdue.
- Licensed vaccines are available for ferrets, cattle, horses, and sheep.

<sup>6</sup> The prospective serologic monitoring protocol is provided by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and is available on their website at: <https://www.nasphv.org/Documents/NASPHVSerologicMonitoring>

<sup>7</sup> Animal specimens are submitted to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory (ODHL) for rabies testing.

- Veterinary hospitals and clinics can ship specimens directly to ODHL.
- Enter the lab order into the ODHL eLIMS portal at: <https://elims.odh.ohio.gov/login> and print the Laboratory Rabies Test Submission Form.
- Submit only the animal head, unless the animal is less than 12 inches long.
- The specimen must be fresh and kept under refrigeration.
- Double bag the specimen and ship in an insulated container with ice packs and the completed Laboratory Rabies Test Submission Form.
- Contact Mercury Services at 800-527-2187 for free shipping to ODHL. Do not ship on Fridays or before holidays, as someone must be present at ODHL when the package arrives.
- More info available at: <https://odh.ohio.gov/know-our-programs/zoonotic-disease-program/diseases/rabies>