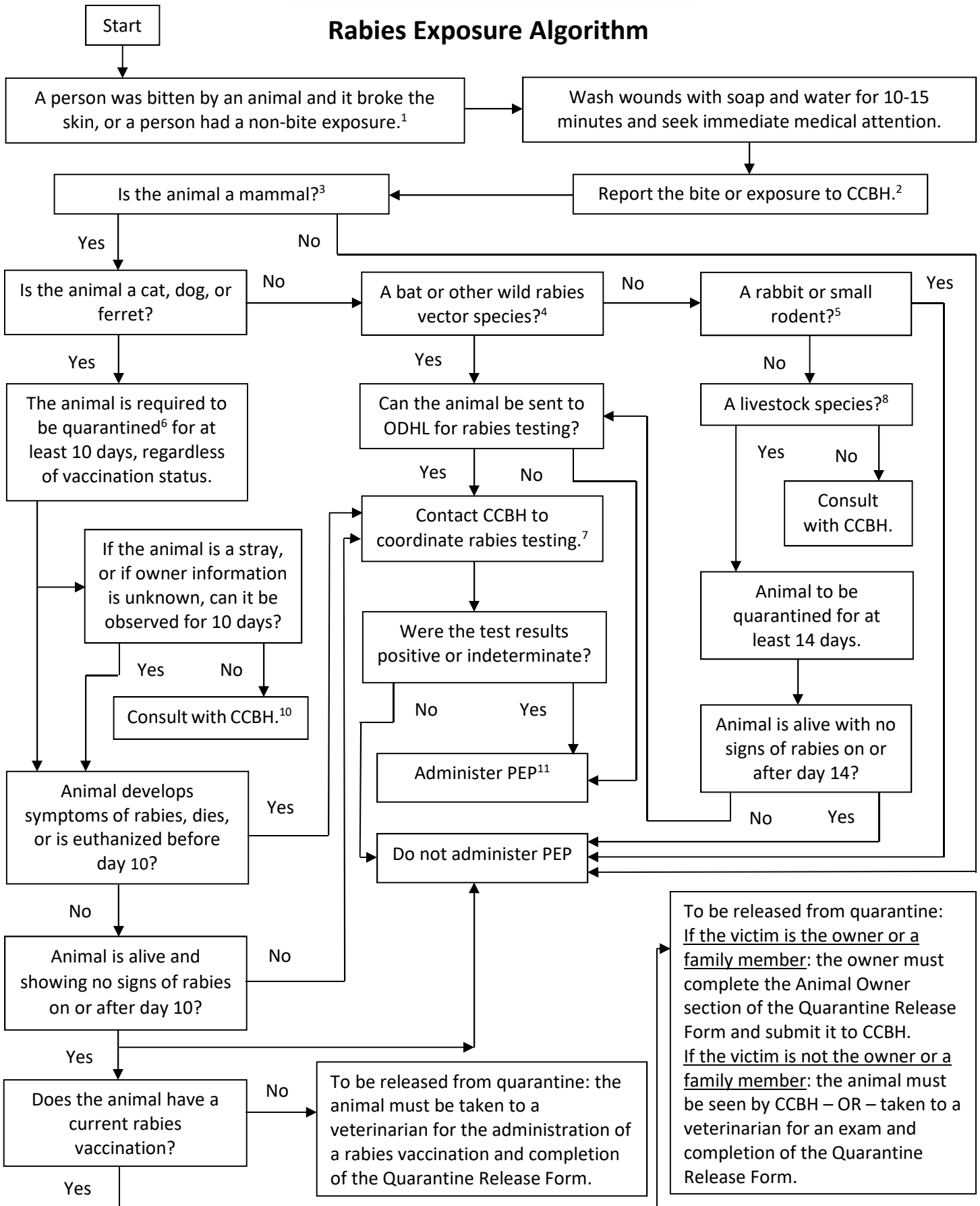


Rabies Exposure Algorithm



¹ A non-bite exposure is the introduction of infected saliva into an open wound or a mucous membrane, or a wet scratch. For incidents involving bats, the following are also considered non-bite exposures:

- A person has direct physical contact with a bat.
- A person awakes to find a bat in their bedroom.
- A bat is found in a room with an unattended child.
- A bat is found in a room with a person that cannot reliably communicate if an exposure occurred.

² 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 reporting form at <https://ccbh.net/rabies-downloads/> and sending by email to rabies@ccbh.net or by fax to 216-676-1317. The report is used to conduct a risk assessment to determine the need for rabies PEP. If the incident occurred in the city of Cleveland, then fax to 216-348-7359.

³ Only mammals can carry rabies. Birds, amphibians, and reptiles are not rabies vector species.

⁴ Wild rabies vector species 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.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Animal owners will receive paperwork by mail, advising of the quarantine requirements, and providing a quarantine release form. The date of the incident is day zero of the quarantine. Animals can be quarantined at home or at another approved location. Animals cannot be relocated during quarantine, or released from quarantine, without CCBH approval.

⁷ 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 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>

⁸ Livestock species includes alpaca, cow, donkey, goat, horse, llama, mule, pig, and sheep.

⁹ Animal owners will receive paperwork by mail, advising of the quarantine recommendations, and providing a quarantine release form. The date of the incident is day zero of the quarantine.

¹⁰ The risk for rabies associated with a cat, dog, or ferret is low in Cuyahoga County. The decision to administer PEP is determined on a case by case basis by assessing risk criteria that includes: the species of the animal involved, the epidemiology of rabies in the area, the observed health of the biting animal, the circumstances surrounding the incident, whether the victim is a small child, and if the bite was to the head. CCBH will follow up with the victim.

¹¹ Rabies PEP is a series of inoculations, administered over the course of 4 separate days, that is effective at preventing rabies, as long as it is initiated prior to the onset of symptoms. The typical incubation period for rabies in humans is 1-3 months. If PEP is recommended, then it should not be delayed.

- The rabies IG and 1st dose of vaccine are given on the 1st day (day zero) and can only be given at a hospital.
- The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th doses of vaccine are given on days 3, 7, and 14, and can be given at a hospital, or at our CCBH clinic by calling 216-201-2041 to schedule appointments.