WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (DIDPR)

Animal to Animal Rabies Exposure Algorithm

Revised 10/8/26

West Virginia Department of HEALTH

What type of animal was exposed to the potentially rabid animal? If not a mammal, no further action is needed.

Dog, cat, or ferret

Vaccinated?

YES

Revaccinate
and confine[f] for 45 days[c,d]

NO

Euthanize or quarantine[g]
for 6 months and vaccinate around month 5[c,d]

OUT OF DATE

Consult
with Epidemiologist On-call or DIDPR[e]

Wild/exotic animals[a]

NO OBSERVATION WINDOW

Euthanize and test immediately
if human/animal exposure

Small mammals
(rabbits, guinea pigs, mice, etc.)

NO OBSERVATION WINDOW

Can euthanize and test
but not considered likely to transmit rabies.

Livestock[b]

Vaccinated?

YES

Revaccinate
and confine[f] for 45 days[c,d]

NO

Slaughter or quarantine[g]
for 6 months and vaccinate around month 5[c,d]

[a] Includes wildlife/exotic animals as pets, zoo settings and wildlife in general.

[b] The West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Office of the State Veterinarian should be notified immediately to any potential rabies exposure in livestock.

[c] Per West Virginia state code §19-20-9a.

[d] If offending animal is available for testing, and tests negative, no confinement/quarantine is necessary.

[e] Contact Epi On-call line at (304) 558-5358.

[f] **Confine** means animal must be kept from other animals/people. They cannot be running loose, can be free inside patient's home.

[g] **Quarantine** means the animal is in a facility or enclosure with no direct contact between the animal and humans or other animals. Must be double enclosure.

PLEASE NOTE: THIS ANIMAL EXPOSURE GUIDE IS NOT INTENDED TO ADDRESS ALL POTENTIAL CASES. CONTACT THE EPIDEMIOLOGIST ON-CALL LINE WITH QUESTIONS.

(304) 558-5358