Is the animal available for quarantine?

Yes

Withhold PEP & quarantine animal for 10 days (ferret= 14 days)

If animal dies or develops signs of rabies, test brain tissue
If animal remains healthy, PEP is not indicated

If results are positive, initiate PEP
If result is negative, no further action required & PEP is not indicated

No

Contact animal control & attempt to locate the animal

Animal located

Animal not located

Risk assessment shall be provided by public health officials directly to the patient and/or physician. A combination of factors is considered when assessing the risk of exposure. These factors are:

1. Geographic location: A metropolitan area is considered low risk. PEP usually not recommended unless an animal exhibited neurological signs. Stray animals from rural areas with known rabies epizootics are considered an increased risk.

2. Health: If an animal appears healthy, the risk is low vs. an animal with acute neurological symptoms- which is high risk.

3. Provoked vs. unprovoked: PEP is not recommended for an attack that was provoked.

4. Stray vs. known animal: An animal with a collar indicates a level of care which is likely to include previous rabies vaccination and thus a lower risk. Stray cats routinely seen within bite victim’s neighborhood can be observed from a distance for 10 days for health status.

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For more information regarding rabies, visit our website at: www.azdhs.gov/phs/oids/vector/rabies