Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis Risk Assessment

Determine if exposure has occurred

Yes

Bat, Skunk, Fox, Wild carnivore & Javelina

Is animal available for testing?

Yes

Call Animal Control or Game & Fish to submit animal head to the Arizona State Health Laboratory. If after hours, call (602) 364-4562 to arrange for emergency testing.

Positive result

Initiate PEP

Negative result

No further action

No

Rodents & Rabbits

Except for unusual circumstances, rodents & rabbits in Arizona are not likely to transmit rabies and do not need to be tested. PEP is not indicated.

Dog, Cat, or Ferret (see dog/cat algorithm)

Is animal available for testing?

Yes

Quarantine animal for 10 days (ferret = 14 days)

Positive result

If animal dies or develops signs of rabies, test brain tissue.

Initiate PEP

Negative result

No further action

No

Monkey or Exotic Mammal

Depending upon species, Herpes B virus may be a more urgent concern than rabies. Contact the Arizona Department of Health at (602) 364-4562.

Is animal available for testing?

Yes

Negative result

No further action

Livestock

Report suspect rabid livestock to the Arizona Department of Agriculture at (602) 542-4293.

If neurologic signs are present and the animal was exposed to a human, test the brain tissue.

Positive result

Initiate PEP

Negative result

No further action

No further action is required

1. Contact Animal Control
2. Try to locate the animal
3. Assess the Risks:
   • Metro area- low risk vs. Rural area with known epizootic- high risk
   • Healthy- low risk vs. Neurological symptoms- high risk
   • Known animal- low risk vs. Stray animal- high risk
   • Provoked- low risk vs. Not provoked- high risk

Bites by high rabies incidence wildlife species such as bats, skunks, foxes, and to a lesser extent – bobcats and coyotes, warrant emergency testing after hours. PEP should be considered when direct contact between a human and a bat has occurred, unless exposed person is an adult and can be certain that a bite, scratch, or mucous membrane exposure did not occur. Persons who have been sleeping in a room with a bat, and persons with mental impairment or children who are found playing unsupervised with a rabid bat, should be considered for prophylaxis.