

NOTICE OF BITE AND CONFINEMENT OF ANIMAL

Under authority of N. J. Rev. Statutes 26:4-82, 83, & 85, you are hereby ordered to confine the animal securely in a manner designated by the local health department until released by an agent of the local health department.

Species (dog, cat, etc.)	License Number	Name	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> F	Color/Markings	Breed	Hair <input type="checkbox"/> Short <input type="checkbox"/> Long
Name and Address of Owner						
Date of Bite		Date Reported to Loc.Hlth.Dept.		Location of Animal (Street and Area) At Time of Bite		
Name of Person Bitten			Telephone Number		Location of Bite on Body	
Address of Person Bitten						
Name and Address of Attending Physician					Telephone Number	
Name and Address of Attending Veterinarian					Telephone Number	
Date of Confinement		Projected Release Date		Length of Confinement <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Days <input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Department of Health-Municipality			County		Telephone Number	
Release Authorized By					Release Date Authorized	
IN COOPERATION WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, INFECTIOUS AND ZOO NOTIC DISEASES PROGRAM, RABIES CONTROL						

IMPORTANT: If animal shows signs of illness or dies, immediately notify the local health officer before removing the animal or its body. All confined animals that die MUST be tested for rabies; the animal's head should be sent immediately to the New Jersey Department of Health, Rabies Laboratory.

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Copies to: Owner of Animal, Person Bitten, Local Health Department

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON RABIES

Rabies is a viral infection of the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord) that can affect all warm-blooded animals. The virus is excreted in the saliva of an infected animal (usually a raccoon, fox, skunk, groundhog, dog or cat), and is transmitted by a bite or by contamination of open (i.e., bleeding within the past 24 hours) wounds or mucous membranes with saliva or central nervous system tissue (brain and spinal cord), from an infected animal. Rabies in humans can be prevented by the administration of rabies immune serum and vaccine after a bite or exposure from a known or suspect rabid animal has occurred. **Once signs and symptoms of illness appear (usually 2 to 12 weeks following the bite), however, there is no cure or treatment for the disease.**

Because of the risk of rabies, all animal bites should be reported to your local health department for follow-up and evaluation. It is also important to:

- 1. Wash animal bite wounds thoroughly with soap and water as soon as possible after the bite. Contamination of open cuts or scratches with saliva of potentially rabid animals should also be washed off immediately.**
- 2. If bitten by an owned animal, get the owner's address and telephone number. In case of bites from wild or stray animals, if it can be done safely, try to capture the animal so that it can be observed or tested for rabies. Call your local animal control officer for assistance.**
- 3. Consult a physician as soon as possible.**

Biting dogs and cats should be confined for rabies observation by the local department of health for a period of 10 days following the bite. If a dog or cat had rabies virus in its saliva at the time of the bite; it will become very ill with rabies within a few days, and can be sacrificed and tested to verify the presence of the disease. Dogs and cats showing signs of rabies at the time of the bite may be sacrificed and tested immediately. Other domestic animals, i.e., horses, cattle, goats, etc. may be confined for observation for 10 days if they are healthy at the time of the bite. Signs of rabies in animals include loss of appetite, fever, restlessness, irritability, progressing to either frank aggressiveness and/or paralysis and difficulty walking, unusual crying or howling, drooling of saliva, and eventually seizures, coma, and death. The progression of the disease is rapid, with domestic animals usually dying within 1 to 5 days of onset of illness. Important: at the first signs of any such illness in an animal confined for rabies observation, the local health department should be notified at once.

There is no safe rabies observation period for wild animals. Raccoons, skunks, foxes may have the virus in their saliva for a week or longer before showing signs of illness, If any of these animals are seen acting unusually, showing signs of aggression, and out during daylight hours, they should be considered as potentially rabid. Stay away from these animals and do not let pet dogs, cats, or other animals come in contact with them. Report to the local department of health any bites or exposures from these animals to your pets, livestock, or yourself.