

RULES FOR RABIES CONFINEMENT

Whenever a dog or cat is involved in a human biting or scratching incident, it must be confined for 10 days from the date of the incident. If it stays healthy during this period, we know that it did not have rabies at the time of the incident. This means that the person who was exposed will not need rabies vaccine.

Your animal is required to be confined for a period of 10 days from the date of the biting/scratching/exposure incident(s).

Confinement requires that your animal does not have access to other people or animals other than those residing in the residence. This means no walks or rides in vehicles, etc.

You must notify the Health Unit immediately at: **519-663-5317** if there are any changes in your animal's behavior. Your animal may exhibit one, all, or a combination of the following signs:

- ❖ unusual walk or gait (animal appears to be staggering);
- ❖ partial paralysis in hind quarters;
- ❖ failure to eat or drink, unable to swallow;
- ❖ abnormal fear;
- ❖ heavy drooling and/or long strings of saliva; and
- ❖ drooping facial muscles.

You should also let the Health Unit know right away if for some reason your animal escapes or dies during the confinement period.

At the end of the 10-day period, a Public Health Inspector will visit you, and if your animal is in good health, it will be released from confinement. During this time, the Public Health Inspector will also need to see your animal's proof of immunization certificate. This is necessary to verify that your animal has been immunized against rabies.

Do not immunize during the period of isolation.

For further information or if you have any questions, please call Environmental Health at: **519-663-5317** (available after hours as well).

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