

## Rules For Rabies Confinement

To protect the health of individuals, the Middlesex London Health Unit (MLHU) follows up with reported cases of potential rabies exposures. The rabies virus may be passed to a person from a warm-blooded animal through the animal's saliva. An exposure can occur via a bite, scratch, or non-bite exposure.

The animal involved in the incident must be confined and observed for 10 days from the date of the bite, scratch, or non-bite exposure (or as stated by the Public Health Inspector). If the animal remains alive and does not show any signs of rabies infection during this period, the person who was exposed is not at risk of rabies infection. This means that the person who was exposed will not need post-exposure rabies treatment.

Confinement means that your animal does not have access to other people or animals other than those residing in the home. This means no walks or rides in vehicles, dog parks, etc. Additionally, do not vaccinate your animal during the confinement period.

You must notify the MLHU immediately if there are any changes in your animal's behavior or health. Rabies signs may include one, all or a combination of the following:

- ❖ 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/or
- ❖ drooping facial muscles.

Contact the MLHU right away if your animal escapes, dies or shows signs of rabies infection during the confinement period.

At the end of the confinement period, a Public Health Inspector will visit or contact you via telephone. If your animal is alive and shows no signs of rabies infection, it will be released from confinement.

The Public Health Inspector will also need to see your animal's proof of rabies vaccination certificate. This is necessary to verify that your animal has been vaccinated against rabies.

For further information or if you have any questions, please call the MLHU at 519-663-5317 and ask to speak with the rabies coordinator.

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