

YOUR ANIMAL'S 14-DAY CONFINEMENT



Why is my animal confined for 14 days?

Very rarely, an animal that bites a person or another animal will have a disease called rabies. The **14-day confinement** is a legally required watch period to ensure that your animal (regardless of your animal's vaccination status) does not have rabies (rare but fatal viral infection).

If your animal is fine for the full 14-days, your animal did not have rabies. **If your animal does become ill during confinement, it might have rabies.** Experts from the health department will provide information on what to do in this situation.

Knowing if an animal has rabies is very important. Anyone bit by an animal with rabies must be vaccinated to prevent illness and death. So, even though the chance that your animal has rabies is very small, confinement is critical to protect public health.

More information on rabies can be found on the Health Department's following website: fairfaxcounty.gov/health/rabies.

What do I need to do during the next 14 days?

Keep your animal at the address you listed on the confinement contract that you filled out until the end date on your contract.

Call 571-274-2296 IMMEDIATELY (24/7/365) to contact the Fairfax County Health Department Emergency On-Call Rabies Program staff if:

- Your animal becomes sick, dies or runs away, or
- You would like to euthanize your animal, or
- You would like to give your animal to another person or shelter

What should I look for while my animal is confined?

If your animal has any signs of illness during the **14-day confinement**, call the Health Department at **571-274-2296** immediately to talk with an expert. An animal with rabies will become more-and-more sick, may not eat or drink, and could become aggressive. The health department expert will talk with you and tell you what to do next if your animal does become ill.

We made it to day 14. Now what?

Great news! Your animal did NOT have rabies when the reported bite occurred. To release your animal from confinement, please follow the instructions in the email address you provided with the subject "Fairfax County: Animal Confinement Clearance Form." Once you have completed this, your animal is released from confinement. **Your animal will remain in legal confinement until you complete this form.**

Thank you for your cooperation to help keep Fairfax County a safe place to live, work and play!

If you have any additional questions about your animal's confinement, please call the Fairfax County Health Department Rabies Program at 703-246-2433 during regular business hours.



fairfaxcounty.gov/health/rabies

