Guidance for Providing Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP)

- All bites (by mammals) and other potential rabies exposures are required by law to be reported to Fairfax County Police Animal Services. (Fairfax Code 41.1-2-9)
- Fairfax County Police Animal Services: 703-691-2131, TTY 711, FAX 703-830-7806.
- The Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) is available 24/7 for PEP administration questions/guidance at 703-246-2433, TTY 711. (evenings & weekends 571-274-2296).

Provide PEP if...
- patient is bitten by a high-risk animal AND the animal is UNAVAILABLE for rabies testing.

Examples of high-risk animals:

- Raccoon
- Skunk
- Fox
- Beaver
- Groundhog
- Opossum
- Bat*

DO NOT
Provide PEP if...
- patient is bitten by a low-risk animal in the United States AND the biting animal is AVAILABLE† for testing or confinement.
- animal bite does NOT break the skin.

Examples of low-risk animals:

- Dog
- Cat
- Ferret
- Rabbit
- Cow
- Rodents (including squirrels)

*If patient has a BAT encounter and no bite occurred, please refer to the FCHD for PEP recommendations.

† Police Animal Services may locate dogs, cats and ferrets even if the animal’s exact location is unknown. Consult with the FCHD if there is uncertainty.

For complete information on PEP Administration, refer to FCHD’s Rabies PEP Protocol Algorithm.

fairfaxcounty.gov/health
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For more information or to request information in an alternate format, call the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-2411, TTY 711.

Animals not shown to scale.

Please note: This list of animals is not exclusive. These are the most common animals that may be encountered in Fairfax. If the biting animal is not listed above, contact the FCHD for PEP recommendations.