

Table. Management of dogs, cats, and ferrets exposed to rabies

	Vaccination status of exposed cat, dog, or ferret		
	Up-to-date/ Overdue with documentation	Overdue without documentation	Never vaccinated
Control measure for exposed cat, dog, or ferret	<p>1. Receive immediate veterinary medical care for assessment, wound cleansing, and booster vaccination</p> <p>2. Observe under owner's control for 45 days</p> <p><i>This is not a quarantine and does not require notification to the ACO.</i></p>	<p>1. Receive immediate veterinary medical care for assessment, wound cleansing, and booster vaccination.</p> <p><i>If serologic monitoring is to be pursued, veterinarian must take day 0 blood sample before vaccinating. Refer vets to State Vet for questions.</i></p> <p>2. Two options:</p> <p>a. Treat as if never vaccinated, or</p> <p>b. Prior to booster, veterinarian can pursue serologic monitoring[∞]</p> <p>bi. If adequate response*, treat as if overdue with documentation</p> <p>bii. If inadequate response, treat as if never vaccinated</p> <p><i>The decision between option a. or b. is to be made by the local veterinarian. Refer vets to the State Vet for questions.</i></p>	<p>1. Euthanize</p> <p>2. If owner unwilling:</p> <p>a. Notify ACO</p> <p>b. Strict quarantine[^] for 4 (dogs and cats) or 6 (ferrets) months</p> <p>c. Vaccinate as soon as possible (within 96 hours)</p>

[^]Strict quarantine refers to confinement in an enclosure that precludes direct contact with people and other animals. *Details provided in Rabies Management Guidelines.*

[∞] Note: To date, scientific data on rabies-protective titers in companion animals are unavailable. Therefore, Maine law does not permit titers in lieu of vaccination, which is required by law for dogs, cats and ferrets (75 MRS 3916)

* Moore et al. (JAVMA Vol 246 No 2, 1/15/15) suggest measuring titer on Day 0, prior to booster, and again Day 5 or 7. This is a paired titer. If titer rise is observed (anamnestic response), that constitutes adequate response.

Source: National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians. Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, 2016. JAVMA 2016;248(5):505-517.