

ANIMAL BITES & RABIES RISK

Recommendations for Alameda County

Not all animal bites need to be reported to Local Animal Control Districts or Alameda County Public Health. Bites from some animals pose greater risk for rabies infection than others.

HIGH RISK

REPORT TO ANIMAL CONTROL IMMEDIATELY



BATS: URGENT! Report any bite or exposure immediately.

SICK DOGS, CATS: Report bite if animal has abnormal behavior consistent with rabies (aggression, drooling, neurologic trouble).

FOREIGN DOGS: Report bite if it occurred in a country where dog rabies exists.

SICK WILDLIFE: Report bite if animal (coyotes, skunks, raccoons) has abnormal behavior consistent with rabies



MODERATE RISK

These are not urgent cases – Report bite to your local animal control district.

HEALTHY WILDLIFE: Normal behavior (coyotes, skunks, raccoons).



LOW RISK

These are not urgent cases – Report bite to your local animal control district.

LOCAL DOGS, CATS: Healthy, with normal behavior.



NOT REPORTABLE

SQUIRRELS, RABBITS, RODENTS, BIRDS, SNAKES: Bites from these animals are not reportable because they do not spread rabies. Please seek appropriate medical care as needed.

REPORTING ANIMAL BITES TO ANIMAL CONTROL DISTRICTS

- Always report details about the biting animal, including current location if known.
- If the biting animal is available, quarantine/testing it for rabies will help determine if the victim needs treatment.

The rabies risk in Alameda County may shift over time. Other counties may have different rabies risks.