ANIMAL BITES & RABIES RISK
Recommendations for Los Angeles County

Not all animal bites need to be reported to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. Bites from some animals pose greater risk for rabies infection than others.

HIGH RISK
REPORT TO PUBLIC HEALTH 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 if bite occurred in a country where dog rabies exists.
SICK WILDLIFE: Report bite if animal (coyotes, raccoons, skunks) has abnormal behavior consistent with rabies.

MODERATE RISK
These are not urgent cases — Report bite online to Vet Public Health.
WILDLIFE: Healthy, with normal behavior (coyotes, raccoons, skunks).

LOW RISK
These are not urgent cases — Report bite online to Vet Public Health.
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.

REPORTING ANIMAL BITES TO PUBLIC HEALTH
Phone: (213)288-7060 - Monday - Friday, 8am-5pm
Online: Fill out and submit reporting form at www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/biteintro.htm
• 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 LA County may shift over time. Other counties may have different rabies risks.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
www.publichealth.lacounty.gov