Rabies Exposure and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Decision Matrix

**Symbol Key**
1. Evaluate wound severity.
2. Evaluate wound location.
3. Evaluate exposure risk by animal type.
   - PEP Recommended
   - HRIG + 4 Doses Vaccine
   - **STOP** No PEP Required

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**Rabies Consultation Services Florida Department of Health—Escambia**
850-595-6700/After Hours 850-418-5566

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**1.** Has the animal bite or scratch penetrated the skin? OR Has saliva/infectious material entered an open wound? (except for bats, see **Bat** column for details)

**NO**
- Provide appropriate wound care. PEP usually not required.

**YES**
- **STOP** No PEP Required

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**2.** Was this a face/head/neck bite?

- **NO**
- **YES**

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**3.** What type of animal? (domestic, stray or wild)
- Evaluate the exposure risk by animal type.

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**Domestic** (Pet/Livestock)

- **Is the animal available?**
  - **YES**
  - **STOP** No PEP Required
  - **NO** or uncertain of status/location

- **Animal Healthy?**
  - **YES**
  - **NEGATIVE Rabies Test:** No PEP
  - **POSITIVE Rabies Test:** Begin PEP
  - **SICK: Submit for Testing**

- **Animal Appears Sick:** Submit for Testing

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**Stray** (dog or cat)

- **Is the animal available?**
  - **YES**
  - **STOP** No PEP Required
  - **NO** or uncertain of status/location

- **Animal Appears Healthy?**
  - **YES**
  - **NEGATIVE Rabies Test:** No PEP
  - **POSITIVE Rabies Test:** Begin PEP
  - **SICK: Submit for Testing**

- **Animal Appears Sick:** Submit for Testing

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**Wild**

- **High Risk** (raccoon, fox, etc.)
  - Consider rabid until tested
  - **Is the animal available?**
    - **YES**
    - **STOP** No PEP Required
    - **NO** or uncertain of status/location
  - **Submit animal for testing**

- **Low Risk** (small rodent, rabbit, squirrel, opossum, etc.)
  - **Is the animal available?**
    - **YES**
    - **NEGATIVE Rabies Test:** No PEP
    - **POSITIVE Rabies Test:** Begin PEP
    - **SICK: Submit for Testing**
  - **Animal Appears Healthy?**
    - **YES**
    - **NEGATIVE Rabies Test:** No PEP
    - **POSITIVE Rabies Test:** Begin PEP

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**Bat**

- Bat bites may be difficult to see. Err on the side of caution if a bat was seen in a room with an unattended child, mentally disabled person, or unconscious/sleeping/intoxicated person.