

LOS ANGELES COUNTY VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH - RABIES CONTROL PROGRAM



Answers to Common Questions

- Veterinary Public Health and Rabies Control (VPH-RC) is not the same as Animal Control. Our program works out of an office. We do not have a shelter or clinic.
- It is legally required to report ALL known incidents of mammal bites to people (except rodents, squirrels, and rabbits).
- It is also legally required to report bites and other exposures between pets and wild mammals (except rodents, squirrels and rabbits).
- Public health needs to know date and location of bite incidents.
- Most rabies-related quarantines are performed at home and monitored by an inspector (via phone and mail).
- VPH-RC is focused on rabies risk evaluation in bite incidents, not animal behavior evaluation. If a bite victim believes an animal is dangerous to the community, they may file a separate"Dangerous Animal Complaint" with their local animal control agency.
- Please hold body of rabies suspect until rabies results come back. If specimen is positive for rabies, the body must be cremated, not rendered
- If a bat is being tested for rabies, submit the whole body, not just the head.
- DO NOT FREEZE bodies or other samples for testing. REFRIGERATE.