DC Department of Health Guidelines for Quarantining Domestic Animals for Rabies: Animal Exposed to Wildlife

**START**  
Animal Exposed to wildlife

Was the animal a bat?  
**NO**  
Exposed animal bitten or an open wound/mucous membrane exposed to the saliva or neural tissue of wildlife?  
**YES**

**HIGH RISK** II  
Exposed animal has documentation of receiving at least one USDA-licensed rabies vaccine in the past 3 years

**YES**

Quarantine exposed animal for 4 months* (if vaccinated against rabies within 96 hours) under strict isolation (or it is proven the wildlife does not have Rabies) or euthanize and submit for Testing

**NO**

Quarantine exposed animal for a minimum of 45 days if vaccinated against rabies within 96 hours (or it is proven the wildlife does not have Rabies)

**LOW RISK** III  
High Risk II or Low Risk III animal

**YES**

Quarantine not necessary, no rabies risk.

**NO**

Quarantine not necessary unless the animal was sick or behaving aggressively/unusually.

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**Bats:** Domestic animals that kill a bat or play with/eat the remains of a bat should be considered exposed to rabies until the bat tests negative for rabies

**High Risk:** raccoons and bats are the most likely animals to carry rabies in DC but any mammal displaying the signs of rabies should be considered a potential source of exposure.

**Low Risk:** squirrels, rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rabbits, and hares are almost never found to be rabid and are considered low risk.

Note: For any exposure involving an opossum contact DOH for consultation at rabies.info@dc.gov

*Quarantine ferrets for 6 months where 4 month quarantine periods are indicated

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