

The OAC changes related to rabies management pertain to management of dogs and cats who have been potentially exposed to a rabid animal (changes in bold):

1. Unvaccinated dogs and cats that are exposed to a rabid or suspected rabid animal should be euthanized. If the owner is unwilling to euthanize, the animal should immediately receive veterinary care and be administered a rabies vaccine. The strict **quarantine period for unvaccinated dogs and cats can be reduced from six to four months if the rabies vaccine was administered within 96 hours of the exposure.** The reduced quarantine period is based on a review of incubation period data available from a few states. Longer incubation periods have occasionally been documented but are extremely rare.
2. **Dogs and cats that are overdue for vaccination but have documentation** (a valid vaccination certificate) of having previously received a USDA-licensed rabies vaccine, should immediately receive veterinary care, be administered a booster rabies vaccine, and kept under the owner's observation for **45 days**. Published data demonstrates that previously vaccinated dogs and cats will mount a robust anamnestic response to a booster rabies vaccination despite being out-of-date.
3. **Dogs and cats that are overdue for vaccination but do NOT have documentation** (a valid vaccination certificate) of having previously received a USDA-licensed rabies vaccine should immediately receive veterinary care and be treated as unvaccinated (see #1 above). If the owner wants to have the dog or cat treated as vaccinated (see #2 above), the veterinarian may, in consultation with the local rabies control official, use a **prospective serologic monitoring** protocol to demonstrate whether the animal mounts an adequate anamnestic response to a rabies vaccination. Specific guidance on this protocol is available on the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians website at www.nasphv.org.

Please note:

- There is no change to the way currently-vaccinated dogs and cats that are exposed to a rabid or suspected rabid animal are managed. These animals should immediately receive veterinary care, be administered a booster rabies vaccine, and kept under the owner's observation for 45 days.
- There is no change to the management of ferrets that are exposed to a suspected rabid animal. If vaccinated, the ferret should immediately receive veterinary care, be administered a booster rabies vaccine, and kept under the owner's observation for 45 days. If unvaccinated, the ferret should be euthanized. If the owner is unwilling to euthanize, the animal should immediately receive veterinary care, be administered a rabies vaccine and placed under strict 6-month quarantine.