

Animal Type	Evaluation and Disposition of the Animal	Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis (rPEP) Recommendations
<p>Rabies in a human or animal, or exposure to a human by a species susceptible to rabies infection is a reportable condition to the local health departments in the state of Montana (ARM 37.114.203).</p>		
Dogs, Cats, and Ferrets	Healthy and available for 10 day observation	Do not seek or administer rPEP initially. Contact public health to evaluate the exposure and, if possible, arrange for safe observation or assessment of the animal. Administer rPEP if determined to have rabies during the observation period.
	Animal available but has signs or symptoms suggestive of rabies	Contact public health, and an assessment by veterinarian is required. Seek or administer rPEP if public health determines the animal is rabid, or rabies cannot be ruled out.
	Unknown, unable to locate the animal	Case by case assessment with local public health. Seek or administer rPEP if recommended by local public health.
Bats and Skunks	High risk animal for rabies in MT, regard as rabid unless animal testing proves it is not rabid	Contact local public health to report exposure and for assistance with animal testing. Seek or administer rPEP if animal unavailable for testing, or if testing is indeterminate, and notify local public health of the administration.
Wild mammalian animals (except lagomorphs and small rodents)	Medium risk for animal rabies in MT, regard as rabid unless animal testing is negative	Contact local public health to report exposure, and for assistance with animal testing. Public health may recommend rPEP.
Livestock (horses, pigs, cattle and other large animal species)	Low risk for rabies in Montana.	Case by case assessment with local public health. Public health may recommend administration of rPEP.
<p>Domesticated and Wild Animal Species that are not a Rabies Concern in MT*</p>		
All amphibians All birds All reptiles Chipmunk Gerbil	Gopher Guinea pig Hamster Hare Hedgehog	Mole Mouse Rabbit Rat Shrew Squirrel Vole

**MT DPHHS discourages testing these species for rabies, but unique situations do occur in which testing may be justified. Please consult your [local public health department](#) with questions regarding testing and exposures with these species.*