

Understanding Rabies Quarantine Owner Response Form: Things You Should Know

VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM



Why did I receive this letter?

You received this letter because a pet on your property was reported as biting a person or having exposure to a wild animal that may have had rabies. A report of a bite from an animal does not mean that the animal is deemed dangerous. Animals may bite while playful, or the bite may be entirely provoked. Residents that believe an animal to be dangerous must file a separate report with their local animal control agency.

GENERAL FAQ'S

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Will you take my pet away during this quarantine?

No, your pet will not be taken away and your pet may complete the quarantine at home. A quarantine is a safety measure to watch for signs of rabies, not punishment.

While my pet is under quarantine, can I take it to a veterinarian?

Yes, your pet can go to the vet for care. Before going to the vet, notify them that your pet is under a rabies quarantine. If your pet is sick, please also notify Veterinary Public Health at 213-288-7060.

While my pet is under quarantine, can I take it on vacation with me?

No. Your pet must stay at home and be isolated from other people and animals during the quarantine period.

Can I have people over at my house while my pet is under quarantine?

If you have visitors at your house while your pet is under quarantine, keep your pet in a separate room.

What should I do if I have reason to believe that my pet did not bite anyone, and the report is inaccurate?

Public Health is a neutral party that does not decide on fault. We simply monitor your pet for signs of rabies. If you do not think that your pet bit someone, please put this in writing and email your response to us at: vet@ph.lacounty.gov. Your response will be included in the case files. Your pet must still complete the quarantine.

How is public health different from animal control?

In Los Angeles County, Veterinary Public Health (VPH) focuses on disease surveillance and control, especially zoonotic diseases that spread from animals to people, like rabies, by investigating outbreaks, implementing quarantines, and educating the public. Animal Control provides direct services including dangerous animal investigations, emergency response, stray animal care, adoption, licensing and enforcement of animal-related laws to ensure public safety and animal welfare across the county. Both departments work together to protect human and animal health.

COMPLETING THE FORM

What do I do now?

Please complete the following steps:

1. **Fill out and sign** the *Owner Response Form* completely. Note: if your pet is not healthy, or has died, contact us immediately at 213-288-7060, or email vet@ph.lacounty.gov. If your pet dies, keep its body so that we can test it for rabies (at no cost to you).
2. **Gather and include copies** of your pet's:
 - Rabies vaccination certificate
 - Spay/neuter certificate
 - Pet license certificate
3. **Submit all documents by email** to vet@ph.lacounty.gov or by **fax** to (213) 481-2375.

Once we receive and review your documents, VPH will provide a quarantine release when appropriate.

For more information about rabies laws and bite quarantine:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/vet/Laws.htm>