

**New Jersey Department of Health
Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases Program**

NOTICE OF BITE AND CONFINEMENT OF DOMESTIC COMPANION ANIMAL

This form may be used by local health departments to order the confinement and observation of a domestic companion animal that has bitten a person.

Under authority of NJ Rev. Statutes 26:4-82, 83 & 85, you are hereby ordered to confine the animal securely in a manner designated by the local health department until released by an agent of the local health department.

Species (dog, cat, etc.)	License Number	Name	Sex M F	Color/Markings	Breed	Hair Short Long
Name of Owner				Telephone and/or Cell Number of Owner		
Address of Owner				Location of Animal for Next 10 Days Following the Date of Bite (if different)		
Date of Bite	Date Reported to Local Health Dept.		Location of Animal (Street and Area) at Time of Bite			
Name of Attending Veterinarian		Address of Attending Veterinarian			Veterinary Telephone Number	
Date of Confinement	Projected Release Date		Length of Confinement 10 Days Other:			
Local Health Department			Municipality		County	
Release Authorized By				Release Date Authorized		LHD Telephone Number
Notes						

IMPORTANT: If your pet shows signs of illness or dies, immediately notify the local health officer before removing the animal or its body. The local health has the authority to order rabies testing for animals that die or are euthanized while under confinement.

Copies to: Owner of Animal, Person Bitten, Local Health Department

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON RABIES

What is rabies?

Rabies is a deadly disease caused by a virus found in the saliva (spit) and other infectious material (brain and spinal cord) of a rabid animal. Animals can spread the rabies virus to people through a bite or possibly when the animal's spit or other infectious material gets into a person's eyes, mouth or nose or an open wound or scratch. Without treatment, the virus attacks the nervous system and causes death.

What should I do after an animal bite?

All animal bites (pets and wild animals) should be reported to your local health department (LHD) for follow-up and evaluation. It is also important to take these steps:

- Clean the wound immediately with soap and water.
- If bitten by an owned animal, get the owner's address and telephone number. In cases of bites from wild or stray animals, call your local animal control officer for assistance capturing the animal so it can be observed or tested for rabies.
- Seek medical attention right away.

What happens to the biting animal?

Biting domestic companion animals (dogs, cats and ferrets) should be confined for 10 days following a bite or exposure to a person. If the animal had rabies virus in its saliva at the time of bite, the animal would become very ill within a few days. If the animal doesn't develop signs of rabies within the 10-day period, the animal was not infectious with rabies at time of the bite or exposure.

What are the signs of rabies in domestic animals?

In domestic animals, signs of rabies may include loss of appetite, fever, restlessness, irritability, aggressiveness, and/or paralysis or difficulty walking, unusual crying or howling, drooling of saliva and eventually seizure and death. The disease progresses quickly, usually killing domestic animals within 1 to 5 days after symptoms begin. **Important: at the first signs of illness, the owner of the confined animal should notify the LHD immediately and a veterinarian.**