



Manitoba Association of Cottage Owners

Health and Safety

Updated: December 7, 2015

RABIES

Issue: Rabies reporting -wild animal or domestic animal biting incidents.

Background to the Issue:

- Rabies is a constant but low-level threat in the outdoors (wild animals biting pets, or affected pets biting humans) and anyone who is cottaging or enjoying outdoor activities should be aware of the hazard. Rabies is carried by skunks (sometimes racoons) and they are most likely to come into human/animal contact in the spring when coming out of hibernation, or when they are raiding garbage containers in search of food.

Cautionary Notes:

- Animals that exhibit abnormal behaviour or are involved in aggressive biting incidents should be reported to your local/nearest Veterinary Clinic. Failing that, the letter from Manitoba Public Health (see below) outlines procedures to follow.

Policy or Program Implications: What is current Policy or Program for this issue?

- Formerly, the management of suspect rabies cases was handled by Federal Agencies, but in 2014 this responsibility was transferred to the Province of Manitoba, and veterinary clinics were assigned the responsibility of being the initial contact points for concerned members of the public.

Action Taken by MACO:

- Alert the public to changes in Rabies Reporting by posting this advisory on the web site.

MACO's Recommendations for the Future:

- Maintain awareness of any changes in policy regarding Rabies reporting/management.

Position of MACO

- As per the information from Manitoba Public Health;



Health, Healthy Living and Seniors

Public Health and Primary Health Care Division
Communicable Disease Control
4th Floor, 300 Carlton St. Winnipeg, MB R3B 3M9
T 204-788-6791 F 204-948-2190
www.manitoba.ca

October 3, 2014

Dear Colleagues;

Re: Reporting of Suspect Rabies Exposure by Private Veterinarians and Veterinarian Clinics.

Manitoba Rabies Central, in an effort to improve communication around the reporting of suspect rabies exposures would like to share the following information:

Reporting of Suspect Rabies Exposure with Potential Human Exposure

With the changes in the Rabies Prevention and Reporting system, the role of CFIA has been shifted to various stakeholders. There is now a need for closer collaboration directly between the animal health and human health professionals. The role of the private veterinarian has essentially not changed but there is now a need for them to interact directly with their regional Public Health (PH) office instead of with CFIA.

1. In situations where there is **potential human exposure**, they will need to provide information about the exposure to their **regional PH office; PH staff will determine whether a rabies sample submission is required**. Please refer to the Contact Information Document provided under separate cover.
2. In situations where there is **animal to animal exposure only**, they will need to contact **Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Development** by calling 204-470-1108 (<http://www.mvma.ca/news/new-contact-information-rabies-inquiries>)

Below are some points to consider.

- *It is strongly recommended that a suspect animal be quarantined for 10 days unless there are other medical issues that would require the animal to be euthanized.*
- The responsible veterinarian can facilitate data collection by completing his/her own animal bite report, and submitting this information to regional PH, with consent from the person who was bitten or the person who brought the biting animal in for euthanasia. The first page of the report form used by PH (<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/form9.pdf>) may be used if the veterinary office does not have its own form; please disregard those sections of this form that are not applicable to your setting.
- The veterinarian will send the report to the regional PH office via fax or e-mail. Contact information for your respective PH office is on page 3 of the Report of Suspected Rabies Exposure form.

- Regional PH will initiate public health follow-up. If, at that time, it is determined that the animal in question does in fact need to be tested for rabies virus, regional PH will complete their portion of the provincial Report of Suspect Rabies Exposure as much as possible and fax it to Manitoba Rabies Central. Manitoba Rabies Central will then arrange for the animal to be picked up at the veterinary clinic.
- The veterinarian will hold the carcass (frozen) up to three business days to allow for Public Health follow-up. If the RHA requires more time to complete their investigation they will contact the veterinary clinic directly to request the carcass be held for longer.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the above processes please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for sharing this information with all relevant colleagues in your facility and for your continued patience as we move through this transition period.

Yours truly,



Richard Rusk, DVM, MB, CCFP, MPH
Medical Officer of Health



Richard Baydack, PhD
Director, Communicable Disease Control

REGIONAL CONTACT INFORMATION:

| | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|-------------------|
| WINNIPEG REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (WR) | | | |
| CD Intake – Winnipeg | WRHARabies@wrha.mb.ca | Tel: 204-940-2081 | Fax: 204-940-2690 |
| CD Intake – Churchill | dfinlay@wrha-ch.ca | Tel: 204-675-8355 | Fax: 204-675-8355 |
| | | After hours & W/E | Fax: 204-675-2312 |
| INTERLAKE-EASTERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (IE) | | | |
| CD Coordinator | rabiesreporting@ierha.ca | Tel: 204-467-4781 | Fax: 204-467-4765 |
| SOUTHERN HEALTH – SANTE SUD (SH) | | | |
| CD Coordinator | rabies@southernhealth.ca | Tel: 204-239-2408 | Fax: 204-239-2444 |
| PRAIRIE MOUNTAIN HEALTH (PMH) | | | |
| PH Manager | communicabledisease@pmh-mb.ca | Tel: 204-578-2500 | Fax: 204-759-4033 |
| NORTHERN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY (NR) | | | |
| CD Coordinator | llarocque2@nrha.ca | Tel: 204-778-1538 | Fax: 204-778-1741 |
| FIRST NATIONS INUIT HEALTH BRANCH (FNI) | | | |
| CDC Nurse Manager | fnihb.mb.rabies@hc-sc.gc.ca | Tel: 204-948-6822 | Fax: 204-948-7271 |