

N.J. Dept. of Health.

EXECUTIVE NOTICE #29

re: rabies prevention,  
control and treatment.

TO: Division Directors, District State Health Officers and Program Coordinators.

FROM: Office of the Commissioner

765  
AC.

SUBJECT: Rabies

September 11, 1961

General

The purpose of this Executive Notice is to establish Departmental policy regarding rabies prevention, control, and treatment. The Fourth Report of the World Health Organization Expert Committee on Rabies, dated December, 1959, has been used as reference material.

Dog Control

The Department urges that all municipalities provide licensing, ~~consusing~~, stray dog elimination, and voluntary rabies vaccination of dogs and cats. The Department will supply the ~~canine rabies vaccine~~, and will provide information and advice through the District offices and the Bureau of Veterinary Public Health.

Reporting Animal Bites

Under the provisions of Revised Statutes 26:4-79, 80, and 81, the name, age, sex, and precise location of the person bitten must be reported to the person designated by law or by the local board, under authority of law, to receive reports of reportable communicable diseases in the municipality.

This report must be made by the physician attending person bitten, by the parent or guardian of a child bitten, or by an adult bitten when no physician attends.

It is expected that investigation to determine the exact circumstances of exposure will be conducted by the municipality in which the bite occurred, in which the bitten person resides, and/or in which the animal is maintained. Instruction and consultation will be provided by the Districts and the Bureau of Veterinary Public Health. State Department of Health personnel will conduct such investigations where it is determined that qualified local health persons are not available to conduct the investigation properly; where such investigation is made by State Department of Health personnel due to local Department of Health not meeting minimum standards, such information should be sent to the Board of Health concerned.

If an animal is unknown or has escaped after biting a person, the responsible municipal official should notify the appropriate District State Health Office. In such a case, the District will join the investigation.

NJ/KA8  
H4/R1

1961

copy 1

The Biting Animal

Any animal which bites a person should be caught, alive if possible, dead if necessary.

The live animal should be confined for at least ten days in a suitable enclosure to prevent escape. Revised Statutes 26:4-82 give local boards of health the authority to confine an animal which has attacked or bitten a person. The Department urges that confined animals be observed by a veterinarian during the period, in order to detect signs or symptoms suggestive of rabies. In the event that an animal is confined by an owner, dog warden, kennel operator or some other person not properly qualified to determine or diagnose clinical signs of rabies, then such animal should be immediately examined by a licensed veterinarian, if it shows any of the following symptoms during its period of confinement: change in disposition, unusual nervousness or irritability, a tendency to bite without provocation, a change in voice, dropping of the lower jaw, weakness of the legs, anorexia, or twitching of muscles.

Submission of Brain for Laboratory Examination

The local board of health should arrange to submit to the State Department of Health laboratory, or other laboratory listed on next page, the heads of animals which are killed during capture or which die within ten days of the bite. Note: Heads should be delivered to the laboratory and not sent by commercial carrier or mail.

Heads may be delivered to the State Department of Health Laboratory, 4th Floor of the State House in Trenton, at any hour, any day. If the offices are closed, the custodian or the elevator operator will direct the deliverer to the refrigerator on the 4th floor reserved for such purpose. Heads will be examined the following day, whether or not State offices are open.

Information that must accompany each head submitted is presented as per Appendix #2.

Bats

The bat is the exception to the rule regarding ten-day confinement of biting animals. Bats may live more than ten days after the virus is present in the saliva. Therefore, a ten-day confinement period may give a false impression that the bat could not have transmitted rabies at the time of the bite. If a biting bat is captured alive, it should be delivered to laboratory in a jar or similar container in which it can be destroyed while at the laboratory.

EXECUTIVE NOTICE #29

Page 3

---

In addition to the New Jersey State Department of Health laboratory, the following laboratories are available for limited local service:

Bergen Pines County Hospital Lab.  
Paramus, N. J.

Irvington Health Center  
31 Glorieux Street  
Irvington, N. J.

East Orange Health Department Lab.  
143 New Street  
East Orange, N. J.

Newark Health Department Laboratories  
77 Arlington Street  
Newark, N. J.

Elizabeth Board of Health Lab.  
City Hall  
Elizabeth, N. J.

Paterson Health Dept. Laboratories  
Mill and Passaic Streets  
Paterson, N. J.

Hudson County Board of Health Lab.  
County Administration Bldg.  
595 Newark Ave.  
Jersey City, N. J.

Attached as Appendix #1 is a form designated as Bact-L6. This form is the one that is completed by the New Jersey State Department of Health Laboratory for every laboratory situation involving an animal brain examination. In the future no laboratories will be listed as available for rabies examinations unless the laboratory agrees to complete and forward as expeditiously as possible through the same channels, either a form similar to Bact-L6, or the form itself. The Division of Laboratories will continue to supervise the methods and activities of laboratories in determining whether or not such laboratories shall continue to make such examinations. Note: Animal brains examined for rabies and found to be Negri-negative shall have a suitable portion thereof inoculated into mice in those instances where there is a record of a bite or intimate human or animal contact.

Post-Exposure Treatment of Humans Bitten by Animals

There is reason to believe that early, vigorous local cleansing may be of primary importance in preventing infection. Wash the wound thoroughly with soap or detergent and flush thoroughly with water. The wound should not be immediately sutured, unless such action is strongly indicated in accord with necessary surgical procedures. If the recommended treatment includes the use of antirabies serum, part of the serum dose should be infiltrated about the wound. Apply antiseptic after the foregoing procedures. Cauterization is not recommended as a normal procedure.

It is recommended that tetanus prophylaxis be instituted promptly in all cases of animal bites by the use of a booster dose of fluid tetanus toxoid.

The following guide outlines Department recommendations for specific post-exposure treatment:

Guide for Specific Post-Exposure Treatment

Nature of Exposure	Biting Animal		Recommended treatment (in addition to local treatment)	
	At time of exposure	During observation period of ten days		
I. No Lesion: indirect contact	Rabid	---	None	
I. Unprovoked Bites (1) mild exposure	a. healthy	healthy	None	
	b. healthy	Clinical signs or proven rabid	Start vaccine at first clinical signs in animal.	
	c. signs suggestive of rabies	healthy	Start vaccine immediately. Stop if animal is normal on 5th day after exposure.	
	d. presumed rabid, escaped, killed, or unknown.	---	Start vaccine immediately	
	e. wild (fox, bat, skunk, etc.)*	---	Start vaccine immediately	
	(2) severe exposure (multiple, or face, head, finger or neck bites)	a. healthy	healthy	None
		b. healthy	Clinical signs or proven rabid.	Serum immediately; start vaccine at first sign of rabies in biting animal.
		c. signs suggestive of rabies	healthy	Serum immediately followed by vaccine; vaccine may be stopped if animal is nor- mal on 5th day after exposure.
		d. presumed rabid, escaped, killed or unknown.	--	Serum immediately followed by vaccine.
		e. wild (fox, bat, skunk, etc.)*	--	Serum immediately followed by vaccine.
L. Bites where Provocation Exists	a. healthy	healthy	None	
	b. healthy	Clinical signs or proven rabid.	Start vaccine at first signs of rabies in animal.	
	c. signs suggestive of rabies	healthy	Start vaccine immediately. Stop if animal normal on 5th day after exposure.	
	d. escaped, killed, or unknown	---	None. This recommendation is predicated on the fact that the incidence of rabies in N.J. is so low that the possibility of adverse effects from vac- cination outweighs the risk of rabies. In the event there is a change in the incidence of rabies in this State, all physi- cians will be so notified, and recommendations ap- propriately modified.	
	e. wild (fox, bat, skunk, etc.)*	--	Start vaccine	

Cats, mice and hamsters appear to be of very little importance as transmitters of rabies in this area. Persons bitten by these animals should not receive specific post-exposure treatment, unless the reported activities of the animal are so distinctly unusual as to be highly suggestive of rabies.

EXECUTIVE NOTICE #29

Page 5

---

Explanatory note to the guide:

The manufacturer's recommendations should be consulted prior to use of serum and vaccine.

If antirabies serum is to be used it should be administered as soon as possible, preferably within 72 hours of exposure, to be effective. Antirabies serum should be administered in a single dose, not less than 40 international units per kilogram (2.2 pounds) of body weight. Sensitivity of the patient to the serum should be tested before serum is used. A portion of the dose should be infiltrated around the bite. Under no circumstances should additional serum be administered, since subsequent doses may interfere with the response to rabies vaccine.

Duck embryo rabies vaccine is prepared for subcutaneous injection in doses of one cc daily for 14 days. In all cases where serum is followed by a full course of vaccine it is suggested that two supplemental doses of vaccine be administered at 10 and 20 days following completion of the usual vaccine schedule.

Procurement of Antirabies Serum

Antirabies serum may be obtained by calling the following individuals or their offices:

	<u>Business Hours</u>	<u>Other Times</u>
Mr. Lyle Cook	EXport 2-2131, Ext. 8341	TUxedo 2-1944
Dr. William J. Dougherty	EXport 2-2131, Ext. 8239	EXport 6-6067
Mr. John B. Van Ellis	EXport 2-2131, Ext. 279	EXport 3-1448

EXECUTIVE NOTICE #29

Page 6

Procurement of Duck Embryo Rabies Vaccine

Duck embryo rabies vaccine may be obtained through the individuals listed above, or through the biological distributing stations listed below:

- Atlantic City: Board of Health, Municipal Building, Atlantic City 344-2121.
- Asbury Park: Board of Health, Asbury Avenue and Main Street,  
Prospect 5-0196 (reg. hrs.); Prospect 4-7137 (after hours)
- Bloomfield: Board of Health, Municipal Building, Pilgrim 3-4400 or Pilgrim 8-0500.
- Camden: Department of Health, Municipal Building, Woodlawn 4-9000.
- East Orange: Board of Health, 143 New Street, Orange 5-5640.
- Elizabeth: Board of Health, Municipal Building, Elizabeth 3-6000 (reg. hrs.);  
After hours: Mr. Connelley, Flanders 1-1644; Mr. Cleary, Elizabeth 5-0270.
- Hackensack: Hackensack Hospital, Hubbard 7-4000.
- Hackettstown: Mr. William Greenham, 103 Little Street, Garden 5-4443.
- Haddonfield: Southern State Health District, 89 Haddon Avenue, Hazel 9-7550.
- Jersey City: Board of Health, B Floor, Surgical Building, Medical Center,  
Henderson 2-3273.
- Long Branch: Board of Health, Garfield Court, Capital 9-0867.
- Morristown: Board of Health, 29 Ann Street, Jefferson 8-3707.
- Newark: Board of Health, Plane and William Streets, Market 4-6400;  
After hours: Martland Medical Center, Mitchell 3-8800.
- North Arlington: Board of Health, Municipal Building, Wyman 1-4367 or Wyman 1-1087.
- Paterson: Board of Health, Mill and Passaic Streets, Armory 8-2110;  
After hours: Mrs. Richmond, Mutual 4-0097.
- Perth Amboy: Board of Health, 44 Market Street, Valley 6-0290.
- Plainfield: Board of Health, Municipal Building, Plainfield 6-0704.
- Somerville: Somerset Hospital, Randolph 5-4000.

Pre-Exposure Treatment for Frequently Exposed Persons

The Department recommends that persons who handle bats or other possibly rabid animals in laboratories or in the field be vaccinated prior to exposure under the following suggested regime of treatment:

- a. Three 0.2 cc doses of duck embryo rabies vaccine injected intradermally on the lateral aspect of the upper arm, at weekly intervals.
- b. A booster dose of 0.2 cc duck embryo rabies vaccine injected intradermally on the lateral aspect of the upper arm, six months after the third dose.
- c. An annual booster dose of 0.2 cc duck embryo rabies vaccine injected intradermally on the lateral aspect of the upper arm.

Procedure for Animals Bitten by Rabid Animals

The local board, within its jurisdiction, shall serve a notice, in writing, upon the owner or person in charge of a dog, cat or other animal known or suspected to have been bitten by an animal known or suspected of being affected by rabies requiring the owner or person in charge of the animal to kill it or confine it for a period of not less than six months. (Revised Statutes 26:4-83)

Procedure for Conducting Animal Vaccine Clinics

The Department will cooperate with local officials in conducting local vaccination programs to the extent that vaccine will be supplied free of charge if the following criteria are met:

1. That each dog be vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian.
2. That a sterilized syringe and needle be utilized on each animal or some other means which the veterinarian in charge has assured himself will not be likely to aid in the spread of disease from animal to animal.
3. That clinics and/or programs be held in any of the following methods:
  - a. A generally advertised public clinic at a scheduled place and time under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian who is employed by the municipality, either on an annual retainer basis as a civil service employee, or as a private veterinarian with a contract for a particular clinic.
  - b. A system whereby a municipality will make prior arrangements with a group of veterinarians in the vicinity who will agree to honor certificates issued by the municipality providing for free rabies vaccination at the veterinarian's office at his time and discretion; the veterinarian to be paid for this service by the municipality. The fee is established by a contract between the municipality and the cooperating veterinarian.



Roscoe P. Kandle, M. D.  
State Commissioner of Health

APPENDIX #1

Robert P. Kandle, M.D., M.P.H.  
State Commissioner of Health

E. L. Shaffer, A.M., Ph.D., Director  
Division of Laboratories

State of New Jersey  
Department of Health  
Trenton 25

Report of Microscopic Examination for Rabies

Specimen No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of  
Laboratory Report: \_\_\_\_\_

Animal: \_\_\_\_\_ Breed: \_\_\_\_\_ Color: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of  
Person(s) Bitten or Exposed \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Bite: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Animal Died: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of  
Attending Physician: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Microscopic examination of preparations of the brain of the animal described above revealed no evidence of rabies.

Additional tests will be made on laboratory animals in those cases in which it has been reported to us that a person was bitten or exposed. A report on these tests may be expected in about three weeks.

To the Bitten Person: Follow the recommendations of your physician.

Jack Spooner, Chief  
Bureau of Bacteriology

cr/  
Copies to: Attending Physician  
Person Bitten  
Owner of Animal  
District State Health Officer  
Bureau of Veterinary Public Health

Bact-16

(The attending physician's copy will be accompanied by a brochure titled, "Information for New Jersey Physicians Re: Rabies". The brochure will include procurement of serum and vaccine as well as other information.)

EXECUTIVE NOTICE # 29

Appendix # 2

NEW JERSEY STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(RABIES)

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT:

Date Rec'd. \_\_\_\_\_

Sender's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Delivered by \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Health Officer \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Owner \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Type of animal \_\_\_\_\_ Color \_\_\_\_\_

Where was animal found \_\_\_\_\_

Was animal killed or allowed to die \_\_\_\_\_

How long was animal sick \_\_\_\_\_

Diagnosis from symptoms \_\_\_\_\_

What other animals were bitten by this one \_\_\_\_\_

How many human beings were bitten \_\_\_\_\_

List names and addresses below:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Attending Physician \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Is negative report to be sent by telegraph (collect) or mail \_\_\_\_\_

To whom \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Result of laboratory examination: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Examined by \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Will test animals be inoculated - Yes ( ) or No ( )