

## PET QUARANTINE

Pet Quarantine may be required if your pet has been reported as having been involved in an animal bite, scratch, or possible exposure that could transmit active rabies virus. Rabies is a serious disease. If contracted by humans, it is almost always fatal. It is for this reason, and for the benefit of public health, that pets involved in animal bites, scratches and possible exposures be quarantined to insure that the rabies virus is not transmitted to humans.

**What is rabies quarantine?** Rabies quarantine is a period of observation, either at home or at an approved location, where the animal suspected of being involved in a bite, scratch, or exposure can be watched to determine if there is any danger of the animal transmitting the rabies virus. The quarantine period for most animals is 10 days from the date the exposure occurred.

**My pet is vaccinated against rabies. Why do I have to quarantine it?** No vaccination is 100% effective. The law requires all domestic animals be quarantined after any reported bite, scratch, or exposure incident.

**What do I have to do now that my animal is under quarantine?** Your pet must be confined to an approved location 24 hours a day until released from quarantine. Quarantine regulations require that the animal be kept in an area that is inaccessible to non-family members.

**What if I don't comply with these regulations?** Home quarantine is a courtesy designed to minimize the disruption, expense, and inconvenience an animal bite incident can cause, and is dependent upon owner compliance with the quarantine regulations. Failure to comply will result in the animal being confined at an approved Veterinarian. You as the pet's owner/harbinger will be responsible for any expenses associated with the need to board the animal due to failure or inability to comply.

**What do I need to look for during my pet's quarantine?** The main things to look for are significant changes in the animal's behavior, general health, or demeanor. Some manifestations of rabies virus infection in domestic animals are extreme agitation, excessive or unusual vocalizations, profuse salivation, inability to close its mouth or swallow, signs of illness and/or death.

**Can my pet get the rabies vaccine while in 10-day quarantine?** No, to avoid confusing signs of rabies with rare adverse vaccine reactions, animals should not be vaccinated against rabies during the 10-day observation period. If unvaccinated or not currently vaccinated, they can get the rabies vaccine on the final day of the 10-day observation period prior to the discharge or as soon as practicable thereafter.

**This "bite" didn't even break the skin! Why do I have to quarantine my pet?** The law defines an animal bite as an actual or suspected abrasion, scratch, puncture, tear, bruise, or piercing of the skin caused by an animal. The rabies virus can be transmitted through microscopic openings in the skin therefore, quarantines are necessary to comply with the law, and to insure against human outbreaks of rabies in our community.

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### **The victim was provoking my pet. They were asking for it! Why should I quarantine my pet?**

The quarantine is required as a matter of public health, the circumstances play no part in whether or not an animal is quarantined.

**I don't believe this bite ever happened. Why should I quarantine my animal?** In the interest of public health, and the fact that rabies is a fatal disease, any reported bite, scratch, or possible exposure must be treated as valid and true.

The Sumner County Health Department is here to answer any questions or concerns you may have pertaining to your pet's quarantine. Please feel free to contact us at **620-326-2774** if you have any questions. We may request to view the animal at any time during the quarantine. It is required as part of the home quarantine agreement that the animal be available for inspection upon request.

### **The bottom line**

- The rabies quarantine is necessary to protect everyone from the spread of a potentially deadly disease.
- Home quarantine is more convenient and less expensive than quarantine at a Veterinarian or Animal Shelter, and is dependent upon your cooperation as a responsible pet owner.
- Chances are your pet is not rabid and this minor inconvenience will only be a memory in a few days.
- Your cooperation in this important public health program is greatly appreciated.

**\*Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Rabies Control Requirements, Defined by K.S.A. 75**