Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) Protocol for People Exposed to Animals

Was the patient scratched, bitten, or was there saliva contact from the animal to an open wound or mucous membrane of the patient?
OR
Was the animal a **BAT** that bit or scratched the patient or was in the room with the patient while the patient was asleep, unaware, or impaired?

- NO → Rabies PEP not advised.
- YES → What type of animal?

Bat → Is the location of the bat known?

- YES → Test for rabies. Is the rabies test positive?
  - YES → Rabies PEP advised.
  - NO → Rabies PEP not advised.
- NO → Rabies PEP advised or consult with the KY State Public Health Veterinarian.

What type of animal?

Small rodent: squirrel, hamster, guinea pig, gerbil, chipmunk, rat, mouse **OR Lagomorph:** rabbit, hare → Rabies PEP not advised.

Domestic: dog, cat, or ferret, etc. → Is the animal's location known?

- YES → Rabies PEP not advised unless animal develops signs of rabies during a 10 day quarantine. Contact the local health department.
- NO → Rabies PEP advised or consult with KY State Public Health Veterinarian.

Wild mammals: skunk, fox, woodchuck, etc. → Is the animal's location known?

- NO → Rabies PEP advised or consult with KY State Public Health Veterinarian.
- YES → Test for rabies. Is the rabies test positive?
  - YES → Administer Rabies PEP.
  - NO → Rabies PEP not advised.

Farm animals: cow, sheep, pig, horse, goat, etc. **OR Exotic animals:** tiger, bear, monkey, etc. → Does the animal have abnormal behavior or show signs of rabies?

- YES → Test for rabies. Is the rabies test positive?
  - YES → Administer Rabies PEP.
  - NO → Rabies PEP not advised.
- NO → Rabies PEP not advised. Contact the local health department to determine quarantine period.

Kentucky Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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