

Managing Animals That Bite Humans

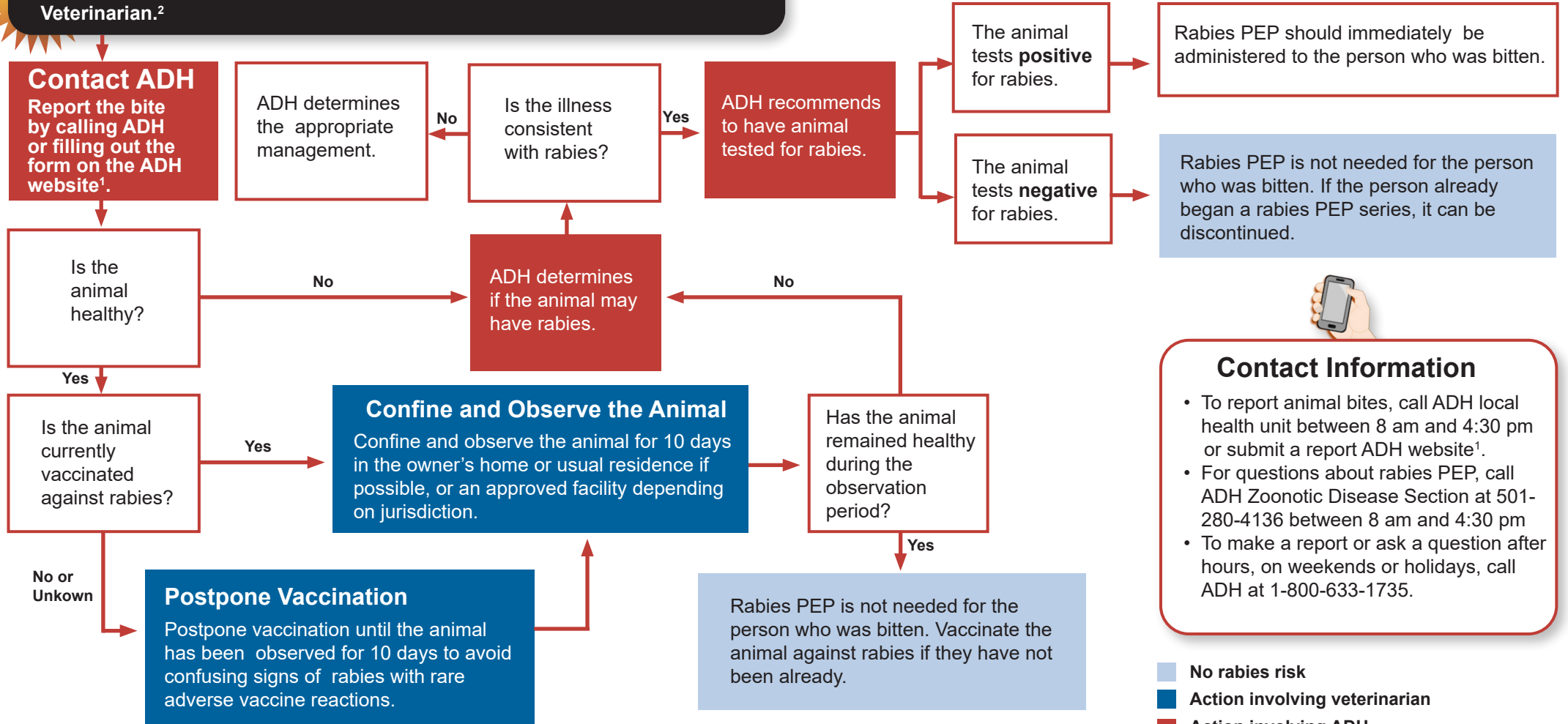
Report animal bites to the AR Department of Health (ADH). ADH will coordinate with the animal's owner and person who was bitten to determine how to manage the animal and if the person needs post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP).¹

Healthy dogs and cats that have bitten someone can be observed for 10 days in the owner's home, a veterinary clinic, or an animal control facility, depending on jurisdiction. Management of other biting animals requires consultation with ADH.



A dog or cat bites a person.

For other animals such as livestock or wildlife, consult ADH Public Health Veterinarian.²



Contact Information

- To report animal bites, call ADH local health unit between 8 am and 4:30 pm or submit a report ADH website¹.
- For questions about rabies PEP, call ADH Zoonotic Disease Section at 501-280-4136 between 8 am and 4:30 pm
- To make a report or ask a question after hours, on weekends or holidays, call ADH at 1-800-633-1735.

- No rabies risk
- Action involving veterinarian
- Action involving ADH

¹ For more information, visit www.healthy.arkansas.gov and search for rabies.
² Livestock includes sheep, horses, cattle, goats and swine.

Managing a Dog or Cat With a Known or Possible Rabies Exposure

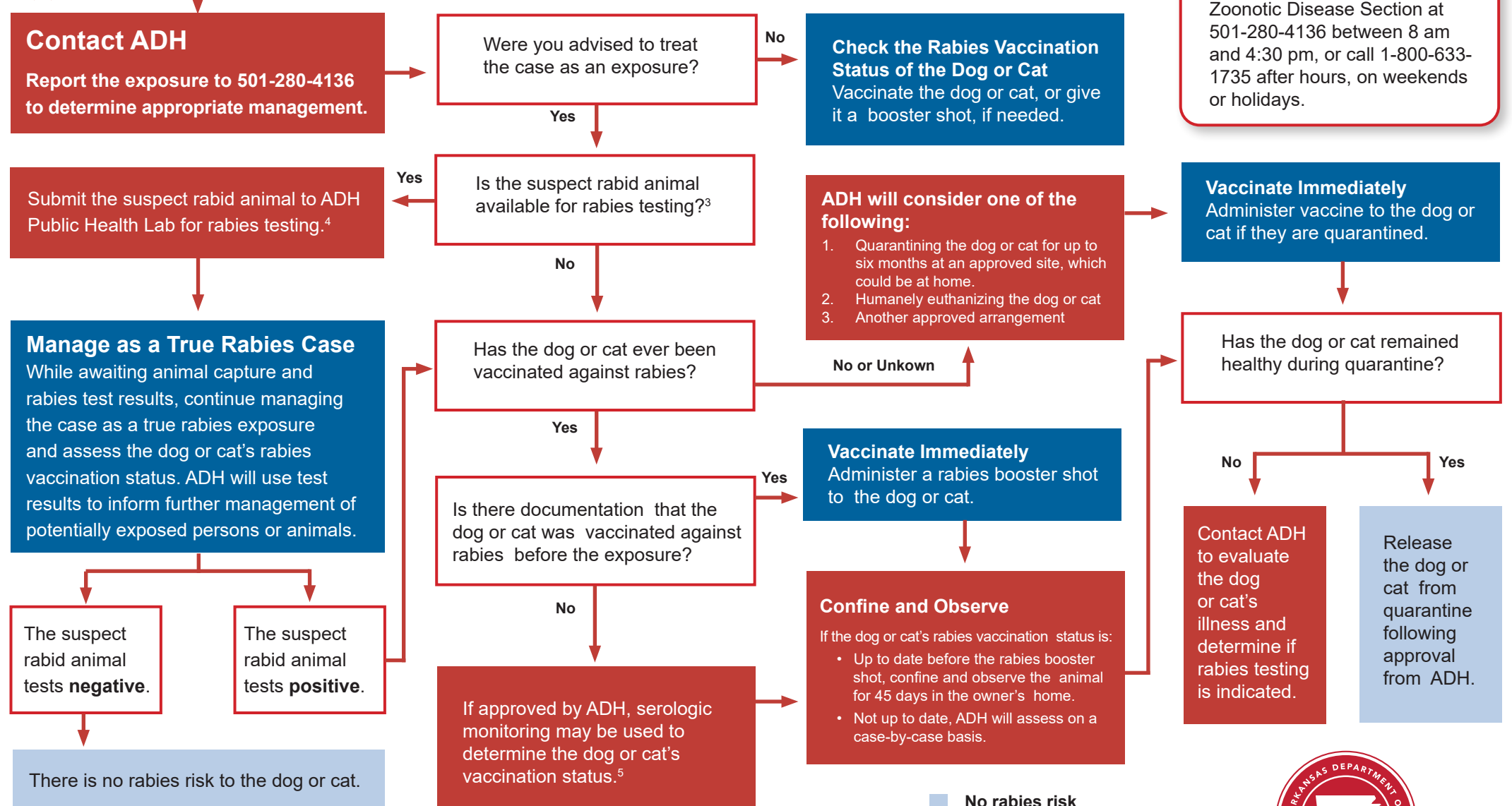
A rabies exposure is any bite or incident in which saliva or central nervous system tissue from a rabid or potentially rabid animal had or may have had direct contact with a dog or cat's mucous membrane or a break in their skin.



A dog or cat was exposed or potentially exposed to:

- An animal that has tested positive for rabies
- A rabies vector species, such as a bat or skunk
- An animal that is displaying signs of rabies

Note: Bite wounds of unknown origin may be treated as a possible rabies exposure. Call ADH for a consultation.



Contact Information

To report potential rabies exposures in animals, call ADH Zoonotic Disease Section at 501-280-4136 between 8 am and 4:30 pm, or call 1-800-633-1735 after hours, on weekends or holidays.

- No rabies risk
- Action involving veterinarian
- Action involving ADH

³ If the dog or cat is wild or stray, animal control or law enforcement may be able to assist with capture.
⁴ Testing requires humane euthanasia and decapitation to obtain brain tissue for rabies testing.
⁵ For more information, visit nasphv.org/documents/CompendiaRabies and look for Prospective Serologic Monitoring Protocol.

