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AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

The Department operates in
accordance with Title VI of the
Civil Rights Act of 1964

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ANIMAL BITES

State law requires that owners observe the following steps:

- 1) Keep the animal on your premises for a quarantine period of ten (10) days following the bite. Keep biting dogs, cats or ferrets under quarantine even though they have been vaccinated against rabies. You will be required to have your pets seen by a veterinarian at your expense.
- 2) Do not remove or take away the animal from premises during the quarantine period, except if a dog is surrendered to the Lucas County Dog Warden or is being seen by a veterinarian.
- 3) Quarantine can take place on your own property or premises.
- 4) You must confine your pet to an enclosed area, muzzled, or restrained on a suitable leash, to keep the animal away from other persons.
- 5) The biting animal may also be quarantined at a veterinarian's office, or at an approved pound or kennel at your expense. It is required that the health department be advised if the animal is placed anywhere other than your home.
- 6) You may, if you choose, surrender a biting dog to the Lucas County Dog Warden's office at 410 S. Erie Street at your expense.
- 7) In the case of dogs released to the Lucas County Dog Warden for quarantine, please note that these animals will not be returned to their owners, even if they are found not to carry rabies.
- 8) Owners of biting dogs can expect to be visited by representatives of the Lucas County Dog Warden's office and the Toledo Police Division or their local law enforcement agency.
- 9) You will be asked to supply information such as the breed of the animal, sex, rabies vaccination status and date, and the name of your pet.
- 10) You will be required to have your pet seen by a veterinarian at your expense. You must return a signed Statement of Health and acknowledgement that rabies immunization was given.
- 11) The victim will be notified when the animal is no longer in quarantine.
- 12) Failure by the owners of biting pets to respond to the quarantine notice can result in criminal prosecution.

Ohio Administrative Code 3701-3-28 states: "Whenever a person is bitten by a dog or other animal, report of such bite shall be made within 24 hours to the health commissioner of the district in which such bite occurred."

Other Animal Bites

People bitten by an animal other than a dog, cat, or ferret should notify the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department immediately.

Skunks, raccoons, foxes, ferrets, and bats can harbor rabies. Persons bitten by any of these creatures should immediately notify the health department so that plans can be made to test for the presence of rabies. A post-exposure prophylaxis (anti-rabies) vaccine will be considered if necessary.

The health department will provide consultation to victims in the case of bites from other wild animals such as squirrels, gerbils, hamsters, chipmunks, rats, and mice. Rabies is rarely found in these species.