



RABIES EXPOSURE INFORMATION

The California Department of Health Services recommends precautions when handling specimens of wildlife that pose high risk exposure to rabies.

Species that represent a high risk for human rabies exposure (***skunks, bats, foxes, raccoons, wild felids and canids***) should be handled with the following precautions:

- Specimen handlers are strongly encouraged to obtain rabies pre-exposure prophylactic immunizations.
- Protective gloves and a face shield should be worn when collecting or handling specimens.
- Saliva and neurological tissue should be considered infectious. Gloves and instruments that may be contaminated with saliva or neurological tissue must be treated as infectious.
- High risk species may not be handled by students unless the student is specifically named in an MOU or other permit.
- If any injuries resulting in broken skin are contaminated with saliva or neurological tissue from a high risk dead specimen, the person should immediately consult a physician about appropriate rabies prophylactic treatment.
- Specimens should be prepared by a taxidermist to reduce the potential risk.

If you have any questions concerning these procedures and/or rabies exposure, please contact the Department of Health Service's Veterinary Public Health Section, at (916) 327-0332.