



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



Human Rabies: Requirement to Report

May is Ontario's Rabies Awareness Month. In 2025 Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) conducted over 1700 rabies investigations and had over 235 requests for post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) from health care providers (HCP).

The *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, Ontario Regulation 557 section 2(1) states:

A physician, registered nurse in the extended class, **veterinarian**, police officer, or any other person who has information regarding a potential rabies exposure shall, as soon as possible, notify the Medical Officer of Health and provide all relevant information, including the name and contact information of the exposed person, in relation to **any bite or other contact** with a mammal that may result in the transmission of rabies to a person.

To report a potential human exposure with a bat, wild life, **domestic animal** or livestock please complete the [Animal Bite/ Exposure Form](#) (durham.ca/hcp, under forms, reporting) and fax it to the confidential line at 905-666-1887.

Rabies vaccination of cats, dogs, and ferrets

Under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, Ontario Regulation 567/90 requires, "every owner or person having the care or custody of a cat, dog or ferret three months of age or over shall ensure that the cat, dog or ferret is immunized against rabies."

Prior to scheduling rabies vaccination, it is important to confirm whether the animal is subject to a current confinement order/observational period issued by DRHD. When a domestic cat, dog, or ferret bites or scratches a person, the animal is typically placed under a 10-day confinement at the owner's residence. During these observation periods, the Ministry of Health recommends deferring rabies vaccination to ensure possible symptoms are not confused with potential post-vaccination reactions. **Vaccination appointments must be scheduled AFTER confinement orders or observation periods.**

To speak with a public health inspector, please call Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729. After regular business hours (between 4:30 pm and 8:30 am), during weekends and holidays please call 1-800-372-1104 or 905-576-9991. For more information on rabies, please visit durham.ca/rabies.

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905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

