

Why is the 10-day quarantine necessary?

- Rabies is a fatal viral infection of the central nervous system of warm-blooded animals, including humans. It is usually transmitted through the bite of an animal that has the virus in the saliva, or more rarely by contamination of an open cut or mucous membrane (eyes, nostril or mouth) with saliva of a rabid animal.
- When a healthy animal bites a person, there is a remote possibility that the animal could be in the infectious phase of the disease without showing signs of rabies. In these rare cases, the animal will develop recognizable signs of rabies in a few days allowing time to treat the bite victim after exposure.
- The 10-day quarantine period ensures that animal remains available so that it can be observed for signs of rabies. If the animal remains well during the 10 days, this indicates it did not have the rabies virus in its saliva at the time of bite, and therefore the bite victim does not have to receive an expensive and unpleasant series of shots to prevent rabies. This is why it is so important that the animal under quarantine be strictly confined at all times to ensure that it cannot run away or be injured.
- The 10-day confinement and observation period for dog, cats, ferrets that bites humans has stood the test of time as a way to prevent human rabies. This quarantine period avoids the need to euthanize the animal in order to test for the rabies virus.

Failing to comply with quarantine requirements may result in the issuance of a municipal citation or seizure of the animal.



Pictures from Microsoft 2007 Clip Art



Greenfield City Hall, Room 104
7325 W. Forest Home Ave.
Greenfield, WI 53220

Phone: 414-329-5275
Fax: 414-543-5713
Web site: <http://www.ci.greenfield.wi.us/>

A Pet Owner's Guide to Animal Bites



Greenfield Health
Department

Vaccinated Dogs, Cats, or Ferrets

- If a vaccinated animal (as shown by a valid rabies certificate) bites a person, an officer will order that animal quarantined for a period of at least 10 days after the bite. The “officer” can be a public health official, a law enforcement officer, a DNR warden, or a humane officer.
- Vaccinated animals may be quarantined on the premises of the owner if the animal is kept in an escape proof enclosure or in the home. The animal may only be allowed outside on a leash under the control of a responsible adult on the owner’s premises for brief periods of time to urinate or defecate. If a quarantine cannot be adequately maintained on the premises of the owner, an officer may order a vaccinated animal to be quarantined at an isolation facility.
- During the 10-day quarantine the animal must be examined by a veterinarian on the first day, the last day, and one intervening day of the observation period. This is the only time the animal may leave the premises.
- If the animal displays signs of illness or a change in behavior, it is crucial that the owner notify the Health Department or the veterinarian immediately.
- The quarantined animal may be released after the veterinarian certifies that the animal has not exhibited signs of rabies during the 10-day quarantine period.
- The veterinarian may extend the quarantine if clinical signs warrant.
- The rabies vaccinations should not to be administered during the observation period.
- In the unlikely event that an animal under quarantine does exhibit signs of rabies, State Statute requires that the animal be humanely euthanized and the specimen submitted for rabies testing.



The owner of the animal is responsible for all expenses incurred in connection with the quarantine.



Failure to comply with quarantine requirements may result in the issuance of a municipal citation or seizure

Unvaccinated Dogs, Cats, or Ferrets

- If an unvaccinated animal bites a person, an officer will order that animal quarantined for a period of at least 10 days after the bite. The “officer” can be a public health official, a law enforcement officer, a DNR warden, or a humane officer.
- Within 24 hours after the quarantine order is issued, the unvaccinated animal must be delivered to an isolation facility (e.g. veterinary clinic, humane society shelter, pound) for the 10-day observation period
- During the 10-day quarantine the animal will be held under strict isolation at the isolation facility and examined by licensed veterinarian on the first day, the last day, and one intervening day of the observation period.
- The quarantined animal may be released after the veterinarian certifies that the animal has not exhibited signs of rabies during the 10-day quarantine period.
- The veterinarian may extend the quarantine if clinical signs warrant.
- After the animal is released from quarantine, the animal can be vaccinated against rabies. The rabies vaccination is not to be administered during the observation period.
- In the event that an animal under quarantine does exhibit signs of rabies, State Statute requires that the animal be humanely euthanized and the specimen submitted for rabies testing.