

When Your Pet Bites



Wisconsin State Law (SS95.21) requires that any cat or dog that bites a person be quarantined for 10 days so that it can be observed for signs of rabies – regardless of vaccine status. Rabies is a fatal disease that is transmitted by the saliva of an infected warm-blooded animal. Animals infected with rabies at the time of the bite will show symptoms within 10 days.

1. **Report the bite** by calling Washburn County Public Health at 715-635-4400 or local law enforcement.
2. Vaccinated animals must be kept away from humans and in a confined area. Example: a kennel, cage, or garage if the animal is on a chain (not a rope). The animal must be chained if there is no top to the confined area and must not be able to reach the sides.
3. The animal can be taken outside by the owner on a chain (not a rope) to urinate or defecate. During this time, the animal must have no other human exposure.
4. A trained animal observer from Washburn County Public Health will inspect the animal two times during the quarantine. The animal will remain in quarantine until the trained observer releases it. The owner must be available for the inspection during Washburn County Public Health's working hours (Monday – Friday, 8am – 4:30pm) or the animal must be quarantined at a veterinarian clinic.
5. If the animal's behavior changes, (i.e. becomes aggressive, lame, will not get up, eat, etc) a trained observer **MUST BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY**.
6. While the animal is in quarantine, it cannot be removed from the premises or killed. The animal cannot leave the county. The animal cannot be sold or given away to anyone.
8. A fine of \$100 – \$1,000 or 60 days imprisonment (or both) may be assessed for failure to comply with a quarantine order.