Decision Tree for Health Care Providers

Has the animal bite penetrated the skin; or has saliva entered an open wound or mucous membrane?

- No
  - No exposure has occurred, treatment is NOT warranted*

Yes
  - Was the exposure from a raccoon, otter, fox, coyote, bat*, bobcat, skunk, stray cat/dog/ferret?
    - No
      - Exposure to a high-risk rabies vector has not occurred; immediate Rabies PEP treatment is NOT warranted. All other exposures will be evaluated on a case by case basis by the county health department after receipt of bite report.
    - Yes
      - Rabies PEP MAY BE initiated (HRIG and vaccine); consult with your county health department if unsure.

Is the animal identifiable and at a known location; or is the animal carcass available for testing?

- Yes
  - Rabies PEP treatment should NOT be initiated until after completion of investigation and/or testing, except in the case of face bites which may be considered for immediate rabies PEP initiation. Contact your county health department for consultation.

- No
  - Was the exposure from a raccoon, otter, fox, coyote, bat*, bobcat, skunk, stray cat/dog/ferret?
    - Yes
      - Rabies PEP treatment should NOT be initiated until after completion of investigation and/or testing, except in the case of face bites which may be considered for immediate rabies PEP initiation. Contact your county health department for consultation.
    - No
      - No exposure has occurred, treatment is NOT warranted*

* Bat bites may be difficult to see. Please contact your county health department for consultation on suspected bat bite exposures.

Additional notes:
- Wound care should be given according to standard practices whether post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is recommended or not.
- All possible rabies exposures must be reported as per Florida Administrative Code Chapter 64D-3 to your local county health department, regardless of treatment provided.
- Rabies PEP: For persons NOT previously immunized against rabies, human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) is given once (20 IU/kg) according to labeled directions. Four 1.0 ml doses of rabies vaccine should be administered IM, in the deltoid, one each on day 0, 3, 7, and 14. For persons previously immunized against rabies, HRIG should not be given and only two doses of vaccine administered IM, one on day 0 and one on day 3.

For more information, consult the Rabies Prevention and Control in Florida guidance documents.