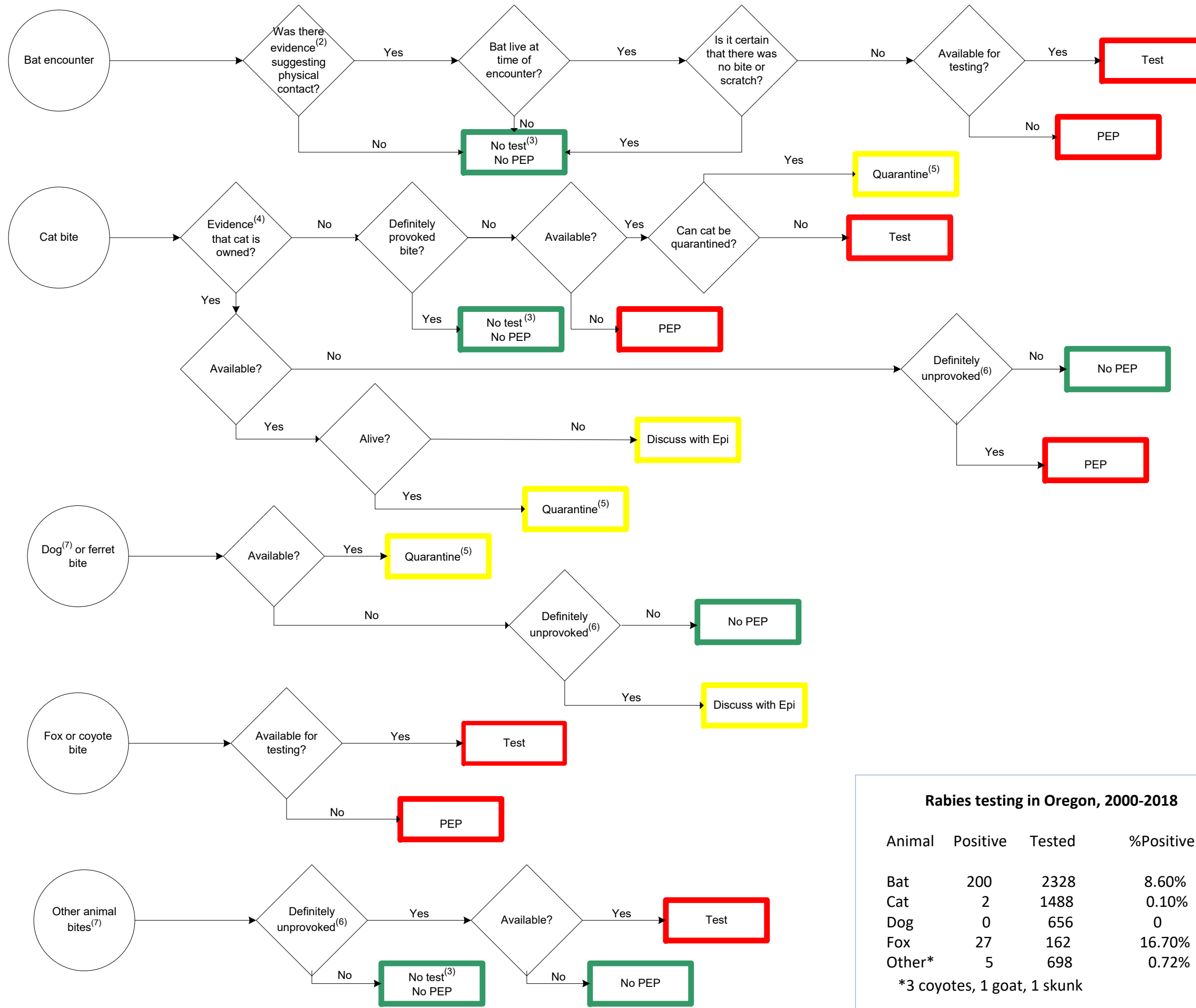


# Algorithm for Prevention of Rabies After Animal Encounters in Oregon <sup>(1)</sup>

Updated: 3/28/2019



**Notes**  
 1. Oregon law mandates reporting of any bite of a human being by any other mammal (Oregon Administrative Rule 333-018-0015[5] [c]); such reports should be made to the local public health authority for the jurisdiction in which the patient resides. Decisions about rabies PEP are the purview of the clinician attending the patient. Although these recommendations regarding the need for rabies PEP represent the best judgment of state public-health officials, they are not binding on clinicians. Clinicians should be advised that, aside from concern about rabies, prophylaxis against tetanus or bacterial infection might be warranted, depending on the nature of the wound and the animal involved. Local health department personnel are advised to call Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention at 971-673-1111 with specific questions regarding application of these guidelines.

As of Jan.1, 2019, testing for rabies is generally done at Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (541-737-3261).

2. Such evidence might include, e.g., a young child's waking up, crying, with a bat found in the room.

3. "No Test" means that the animal will not be tested at state expense. In such cases, the animal may be tested at OSUVDL at private expense.

4. Evidence of ownership might include, e.g., presence of collar or previous appearances of the animal in a neighborhood.

5. "Quarantine" means confining a dog, cat or ferret for 10 days to observe for signs of illness after biting a human being. The nature of the confinement is determined by the local public health authority. If the animal develops neurological illness during the period of quarantine, it should be euthanized and its head shipped to OSUVDL for testing within one working day. If the animal survives quarantine, rabies vaccine can be administered at the end of quarantine.

6. "Unprovoked" implies that, in the context of the situation, there was no obvious alternative motivation for the animal to bite. A good history is essential. In practice, unprovoked bites are quite rare. Examples of provocation would include being hit by a car, being handled, fed or caged, being cornered in a garage, having a jogger run past your yard, or crowding animal's space, etc.

7. For purposes of determining need for rabies PEP, wolf-hybrids are considered wild animals and not dogs. Wolf-dog hybrids that bite or otherwise expose persons, pets, or livestock should be considered for euthanasia and rabies examination. Whether an animal is a dog or a wolf-dog hybrid must be determined by a licensed veterinarian, subject to review by the State Public Health Veterinarian or designee (OR 333-019-0022).

**Abbreviations**

OSUVDL: OSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (541-737-3261)  
 PEP: Post-Exposure Prophylaxis against rabies  
 Epi: Epidemiologists at the Oregon Health Authority; Weekdays, nights and weekends (971-673-1111)

**Rabies testing in Oregon, 2000-2018**

Animal	Positive	Tested	%Positive
Bat	200	2328	8.60%
Cat	2	1488	0.10%
Dog	0	656	0
Fox	27	162	16.70%
Other*	5	698	0.72%

\*3 coyotes, 1 goat, 1 skunk



Center for Public Health Practice  
 Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention

