Rabies Treatment Algorithm
This chart applies only to Indiana and to the current rabies situation

Was the skin broken and/or were mucous membranes (eye, mouth) exposed to saliva or nerve or brain tissue

No
No exposure—no further action required

Yes

Was the animal a mammal? (birds, reptiles, and amphibians do not get or transmit rabies)

No

The animal is a wild animal (higher risk)

Yes

The animal is a domestic animal (lower risk)

The animal is a dog, cat, or ferret

Consult with the local health department or ISDH. Generally, if the animal is available for observation or laboratory exam, no further action is needed until laboratory or observation results are available.

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If the animal escaped or is not available, the decision to use PEP should be based on the circumstances of incident and the presence of rabies in the area. Local health department or ISDH is available to assist in the decision.

Consult with the local health department or ISDH. Generally, no other action is required.

The animal is a squirrel, rabbit, field mouse, or other rodent

Generally, these species do not contract or transmit rabies. Unless there is an unusual circumstance, PEP is not required. Consult with local health department or ISDH if desired.

The animal is a cow, horse, or other livestock

Generally, no other action is required.

The animal is a species at high risk for rabies (bat, skunk, raccoon, fox, coyote)

Generally, if the animal is available for laboratory exam, PEP may be delayed until lab results are available. If not available, consult PEP. Consult with local health department or ISDH if desired.

The animal is not a species at high risk for rabies

Animal bites and the administration of rabies postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) are reportable events

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These animals generally do not have an opportunity to be exposed to rabies virus and rarely have rabies. Except in unusual circumstances, no further action is required.