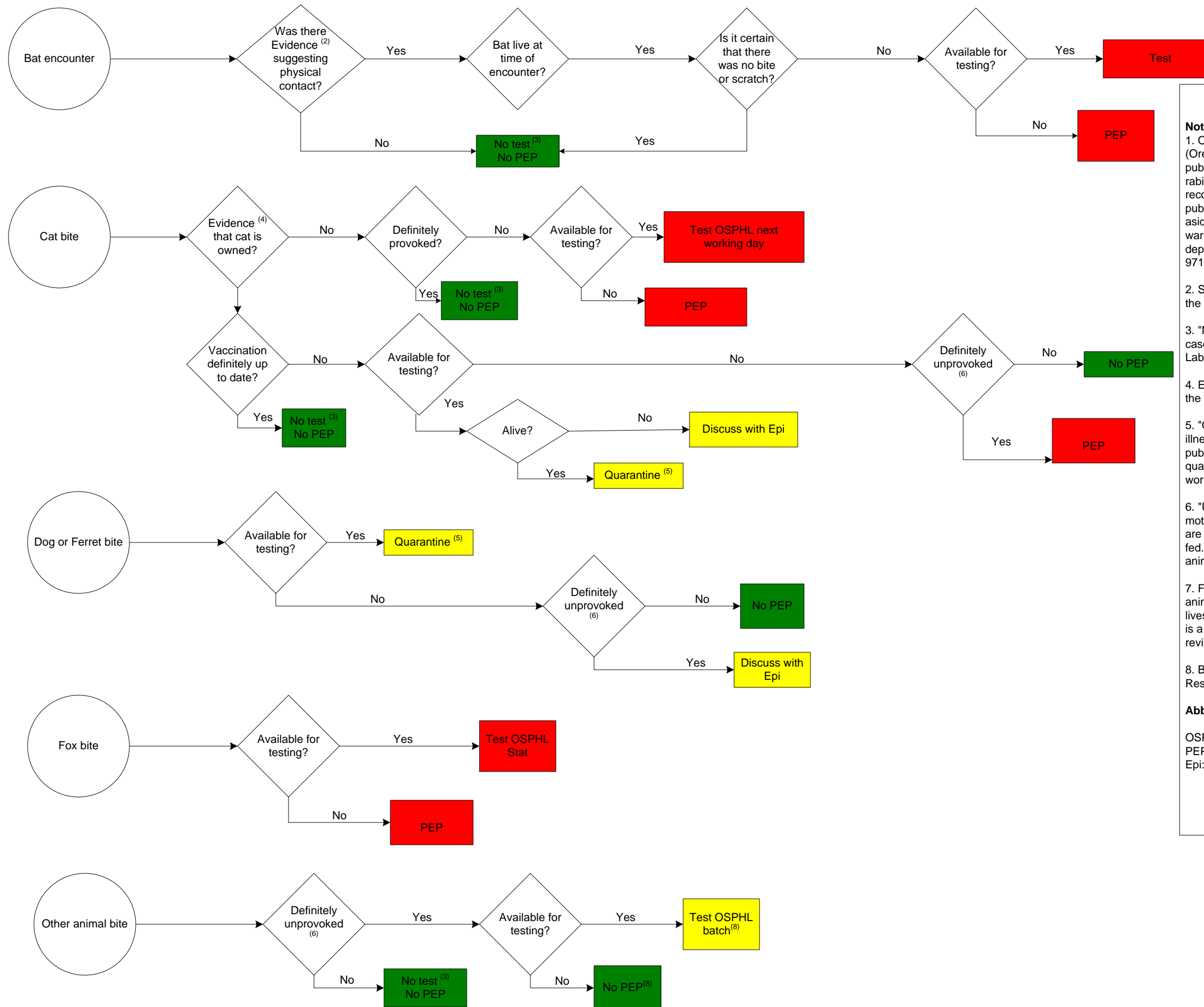


# Algorithm for Prevention of Rabies After Animal Encounters in Oregon <sup>(1)</sup>



## 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.

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 OSPHL, at state expense. In such cases, the animal may be tested at the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostics Laboratory (541-737-3261) 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 OSPHL for testing within one working day.

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).

8. Batch testing for rabies is generally done at OSPHL on Mondays and Wednesdays. Results are available the following day.

## Abbreviations

OSPHL: Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (503-693-4100)  
 PEP: Post-Exposure Prophylaxis against rabies  
 Epi: Epidemiologists at the Oregon Department of Human Services; Weekdays, nights and weekends 971-673-1111



Oregon Department of Human Services

Office of Disease Prevention and Epidemiology

Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention