

Rabies and Vaccinations

- ◆ Rabies is a disease caused by a virus (Lyssavirus) found in the saliva of infected animals and is transmitted to other warm-blooded animals, including humans by a bite, scratch or through an open cut. The virus infects the central nervous system, causing swelling in the brain and ultimately death.
- ◆ To protect the public, California requires Animal Services to quarantine dogs and cats that have: bitten a human causing a break in the skin, were imported, or exposed to potentially rabid animals, for signs of rabies, for a minimum of 10 days.
- ◆ Dogs are **required** to be vaccinated for rabies at four months of age. Cats can be vaccinated as early as three months. The first rabies vaccine is effective for one year. After that initial shot, your pet should be re-vaccinated every three years.
- ◆ Rabies Vaccinations are inexpensive and must be administered by a licensed veterinarian. Check with Hesperia Animal Services or your local veterinarian for low cost vaccination clinics.



Always be alert and know your dog. Watch for signs your dog is uncomfortable or feeling aggressive and be on the lookout for potentially dangerous situations.



What happens during a quarantine?

- ◆ Your pet will be placed under quarantine (isolation) for 10 days to be observed for signs of rabies; this allows Animal Services to contain possible rabies outbreaks. Quarantine can be done at your home if authorities are satisfied with the containment area, if not, it will take place at your local animal shelter.
- ◆ A sign must be posted in a conspicuous place at the location where any biting, vicious or rabid animal is being quarantined or confined to warn the public of this fact.
- ◆ If the quarantined animal is allowed to run loose or is disposed of before quarantine is released, you may be subject to a citation and fines.
- ◆ If the animal becomes ill or injured and requires veterinary care, you must notify Animal Services and the veterinarian who will be treating it before leaving your property.
- ◆ If after 10 days the pet appears to be healthy, it will be released from quarantine and can return home.

If a dog bite occurs

1. Move victim to a safe area.
2. Thoroughly wash the wound with soap and warm water.
3. Seek advanced medical aid if necessary; call 9-1-1.
4. Immediately contact Animal Services so a report can be filed.

Reporting a Bite: *It shall be the duty of any person having knowledge that any animal subject to rabies, whether or not the animal is suspected of having rabies, has bitten any human being within the city to immediately report that fact to the animal control department or the police department and provide full information regarding the incident.*

(Section 6.04.090 - Duty to Report Animal Bites)



How can I prevent a bite?

- ◆ Make sure your pet is socialized by exposing them to a variety of situations a little at a time under controlled circumstances.
- ◆ Train your dog so they understand basic commands: sit, stay, no, and come.
- ◆ Spay and neuter your pet, obey leash laws, give plenty of affection and exercise. Dogs are social animals and when left alone have a greater chance of developing behavior problems.
- ◆ **Never** leave a baby or small child alone with any animal. Educate children in appropriate behavior around animals.
- ◆ Never run past a dog or disturb a dog that is caring for puppies, sleeping or eating.
- ◆ If you are threatened by a dog, stay still, remain calm, speak calmly and firmly then back away slowly until the dog is out of sight. Never turn and run.
- ◆ If you fall or are knocked to the ground curl into a ball with your hands over your head and neck.

Many bites are accidental, but you should never take bites lightly. If signs of aggression, possessiveness, dominance, or fearfulness are overlooked, or if the animal is teased or roughly treated, it is likely to bite.

Wallie
Shelter Mascot



City of Hesperia Animal Services

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Hours of Operation

Tuesday - Thursday: 10 - 5
Friday - Saturday: 10 - 4

(Adoption kennels close last 15 minutes of business day)

Online License Services

licensepet.com/wl3/reghespwl



@HesperiaAnimalShelter

BITES, RABIES & QUARANTINE

