

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology  
and Immunization Section**

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[www.kingcounty.gov/health](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health)



**Information for persons bitten by dogs, cats or ferrets in King County**

1. The risk of rabies from dog, cat and ferret bites in Washington State is low. However, some bites should always be evaluated for possible rabies risk. Tell your health care provider if you were bitten or scratched:
  - While you were traveling outside the United States
  - By a pet imported from another country within the past 6 months
  - By an animal that is known to have had contact with wild animals or bats
  - By a hybrid dog or cat (an animal that is part domestic and part wild animal)
  - By a wild animal, even if that animal is being kept as a pet.
  - By an animal that was ill and not acting normally.
2. Dogs, cats or ferrets that bite someone should be confined and observed for 10 days. A dog, cat or ferret with rabies will get sick and die within 10 days. If the animal remains healthy for 10 days it does not have rabies.
3. Pet dogs, cats and ferrets can be confined and observed for 10 days in the owner's home. If you can't arrange for the animal that bit you to be confined and observed by the owner, report the bite to the local animal control agency where the animal lives (or if unknown, where the bite occurred). Animal control agencies can assist with the 10 day confinement and observation period. If the animal is confined at home:
  - Restrict the animal so it cannot escape. Do not leave the animal loose or by itself in the yard. Do not take it off the property, including to the dog park, on a walk, or in a vehicle.
  - Do not let the animal have contact with people or with other animals (pets or wild).
  - Observe the animal daily.
  - Do not vaccinate the dog, cat, or ferret for rabies during the 10 days. Vaccinate the animal after the 10<sup>th</sup> day if its rabies shots are not up-to-date.
  - If the animal gets sick or dies during the 10 day period, call Public Health at (206) 296-4774 to discuss testing it for rabies. Do not sell, destroy or give away the animal. If an animal tests positive for rabies, preventive treatment is needed for persons bitten by it.

<b>Local Animal Control Agencies: City or Region</b>	<b>Phone number</b>
Seattle Animal Shelter	206-386-4262
Cities of Algona, Pacific, and Milton	253-841-5595 (shelter); 253-299-7387 (licenses)
City of Burien	206-241-4647
City of Des Moines	206-870-6549
City of Federal Way	253-835-7387
City of Medina	425-233-6420 or 425-233-6400
City of Normandy Park	206-248-7603
City of Renton	425-430-6850
City of Skykomish	360-677-2388
Other cities and unincorporated areas are served by Regional Animal Services of King County	206-296-7387 (PETS)

**Resources:**

Pet licensing and animal services: [www.kingcounty.gov/healthzoonotics](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthzoonotics)

Rabies prevention and vaccine for dogs and cats: [www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/rabies.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/rabies.aspx)

Other animal bite and rabies resources: [www.kingcounty.gov/health/cd](http://www.kingcounty.gov/health/cd) - click on "A" for animal bites