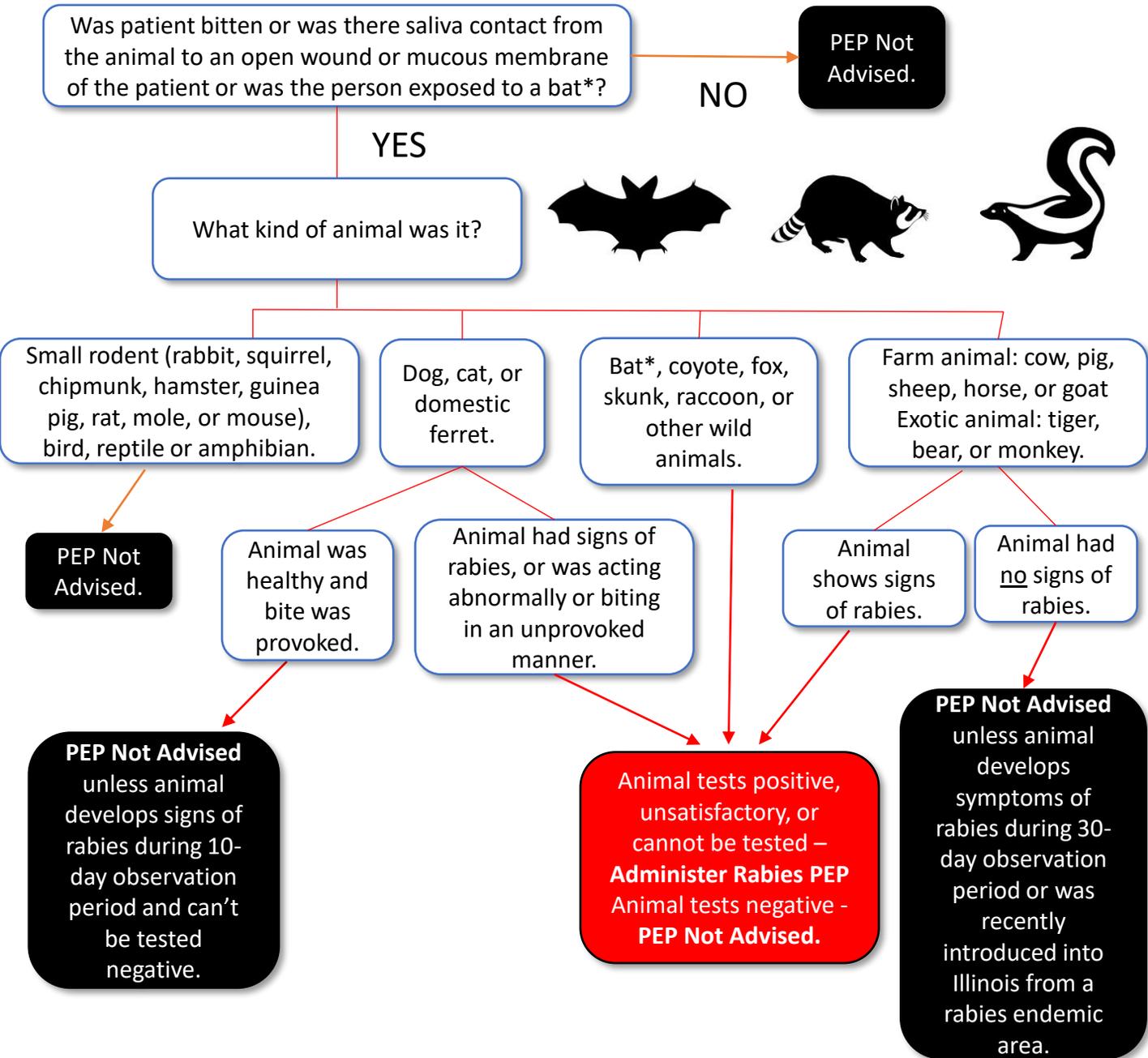


Rabies Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) ASSESSMENT DECISION TREE

Health care providers should consult with their local health department about situations of concern.



*Bat bites may be difficult to see. Contact your local health department for consultation on suspected bat exposures. Every effort should be made to capture and to test the bat involved in the exposure incident. If the patient can provide adequate history that no direct exposure occurred, then no treatment is necessary. If the patient is an unobserved child, a person who was asleep, intoxicated, or mentally disabled, then PEP may be indicated. If someone woke up to a bat or has bare skin contact with a bat and animal cannot be tested, then PEP is indicated.

Additional notes:

- Consult with your local health department about wild animal species.
- Illinois law requires that administration of rabies PEP and/or exposure to rabies be reported to your local health department.
- For dogs, cats, and ferrets, provoked exposures may include:
 - Attempting to feed or taking food from an animal
 - Having contact with an injured animal
 - Entering an animal's territory
 - Petting or playing with an animal
 - Handling an animal
 - Attempting to break up a fight between animals
 - Walking, running, or riding a bicycle past an animal
- Rabies PEP is medically urgent, not an emergency. The severity and location of a wound (severe wounds or obvious wounds near head and neck to be given highest priority), and the expected interval between the time of the bite and receipt of rabies test results should be considered when deciding to begin PEP while awaiting test results.
- If the animal is captured and tests negative for rabies after PEP has begun, PEP may be discontinued.