

Animal Bites/Exposures

Animal bites should be reported to the Shelby County Health Department (205) 664-2470) between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. While persons bitten may need immediate medical attention, the bite report is not an emergency. However, it should be reported on the day or the next working day.

Procedures for Animal Bites and Exposures

Any persons bitten or exposed should see their physician! An official exposure occurs when it is confirmed by a physician. Doctors and emergency rooms are required to report exposures to the County Health Department or Rabies Officer. Others may report the bite/exposure, but quarantine or sacrifice cannot be required until the exposure is confirmed by a physician.

There is a ten (10) day period mandatory quarantine for cats and dogs that have bitten. Shelby County Animal Control will assist in the capture and transportation of unwanted/stray unvaccinated which have bitten a human. The unwanted animal will be transported to the Animal Shelter for processing.

Owned animals are the responsibility of the owner and must be quarantined under the control of a licensed veterinarian. The Animal Shelter will not quarantine an owned animal that has bitten someone.

All animals transported to the Animal Shelter following an official exposure will be destroyed and head provided to the County Health Department. Should an owned animal be transported to the Animal Shelter, the Humane Society will attempt to notify the owner and said animal shall be picked up immediately by the owner and transported by the owner to a licensed veterinarian. The owner will be responsible for paying the expenses associated with the temporary holding of said animal. If the animal is not picked up within seven (7) days from impoundment, it shall be destroyed pursuant to Alabama Law.

If an animal has to be killed, do not damage the head. After death, the animal should be refrigerated or frozen until it is taken to the Animal Shelter, Health Department Office or laboratory.