



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH

Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gregory Wm. Branch, MD, MBA, CPE, FACP
Director, Health and Human Services/Health Officer
Baltimore County Department of Health

Della Leister, RN
Deputy Health Officer
Baltimore County Department of Health

FROM: Ruth Thompson
Deputy Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Outbreak Response Bureau

DATE: December 30, 2015

RE: **Recommendations Regarding Management of Exposures to Raccoon with Laboratory-Confirmed Rabies**

In order to decrease the risk of rabies exposures and protect the public health of the community, DHMH recommends that the following actions be taken in response to the laboratory-confirmed rabid raccoon found at [REDACTED], Dundalk, MD 21222, on [REDACTED].

1. The Baltimore County Department of Health should ensure that any persons with possible exposures to the raccoon are identified, evaluated and assessed for rabies exposure.
2. All cats, dogs, and ferrets who live, visit or feed on the property should be identified and immediately trapped or contained and their rabies vaccination status determined. Subsequent actions shall be taken based on rabies vaccination status and current practice as guided by COMAR 10.06.02 Rabies.
3. We recommend that potentially exposed animals without written documentation of a current rabies vaccination, as evidenced by a rabies vaccination certificate signed by a licensed veterinarian, be immediately euthanized (COMAR 10.06.04D(3)).

4. We recommend that potentially exposed animals with written documentation of a current rabies vaccination be euthanized or quarantined for 45 days provided the animals can be effectively and safely quarantined in a manner approved by the Baltimore County Department of Health and in accordance with a signed agreement between the Department of Health and the owner of the animal (COMAR 10.06.04D(1)). Animals that are quarantined should be revaccinated immediately and kept continuously under the owner's observation and control for the 45-day period. Any signs or symptoms of illness in animals that are quarantined must be immediately reported to the Baltimore County Department of Health.

5. Recommendations regarding the management of animals with a documented history of prior, but lapsed, rabies vaccination should be determined on a case-by-case basis (COMAR 10.06.04D(2)).

cc: David Blythe, MD, MPH
Katherine Feldman, DVM, MPH
Kim Mitchell, MPH, PhD