



Austin/Travis County Animal Protection Care & Control

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HOME OBSERVATION GUIDELINES FOR PET OWNERS

Your dog or cat has been the subject of an investigation based on an incident involving a potential rabies exposure to a person. The Texas Rabies Control Act of 1981 states that such incidents must be investigated. Dogs or cats, which are reported to have bitten or scratched a person, must be observed for 10 days from the date and time of the incident, **regardless of rabies vaccination status**. You are required to keep your pet confined at home for the duration of the observation period, after certain conditions are met.

ISOLATION:

1. **Your pet must be kept isolated for 10 days from the date and time of the incident.** "Isolation" means that the animal under observation must be prevented from coming into contact with people or animals other than members of the immediate family, so there should be no contact with visitors. The animal should not leave your property, even for walks or rides in the car. **If you are unable to keep your pet isolated, home quarantine will be revoked,** and your pet will not be allowed to stay at home for the remainder of the isolation period.

HEALTH CHECKS:

2. **An animal protection officer must observe the animal on the first and last day of the observation period.** You should ensure that animal protection will be able to view your pet on those days, but if you are not able to do so, then you must contact the animal protection office to make arrangements. **The final health check will occur on the eleventh day after the date of the incident (see date below).** Failure to complete the final health check will result in citations being issued.

IF YOUR PET GETS SICK, DIES, RUNS AWAY, OR EXHIBITS ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR DURING THE OBSERVATION PERIOD, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO NOTIFY THE ANIMAL PROTECTION OFFICE IMMEDIATELY. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL RESULT IN CITATIONS BEING ISSUED.

VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS:

3. **All dogs and cats at least 4 months of age are required by law to be vaccinated against rabies.** Rabies vaccinations must be administered by a veterinarian at any vet or wellness clinic, and current vaccination records will need to be provided to the animal protection office.