

  <b>WORK STANDARD</b>	<b>Name of Activity: Animal Bite Reporting</b>		
	<b>Role performing Activity: Community Health Nurse(CHN), Community Health Representative (CHR) and/or Environmental Health Advisor (EHA)</b>		
	<b>Location: NITHA</b>		<b>Department: Environmental Health</b>
	<b>Document Owner: Environmental Health Advisor</b>		
	<b>Date Prepared: May 25, 2022</b>	<b>Last Revision: May 28, 2025</b>	<b>Date Approved: May 30,2025</b>

**Standard Work Summary:**

<b>Task Sequence</b> (Order in which tasks occur)	<b>Task Definition</b> (Brief summary of task )
1.	EHA receives notification of a dog bite from a form an RHA, the Ministry, a Community Health Nurse or others and forwards to another community CHN. OR CHN reports animal bite to NITHA. NITHA should receive the report the same day the client is seen – preferably after the animal has had it's day 1 wellness check.
2.	If the bite is to the head/facial area, inform the MHO through the EHA <b>immediately by fax.</b>
3.	<p>On the current (2025 version) of the NITHA Animal Bite Investigation form – attached, the CHN should attempt to complete the following for each bite – Name of victim, PHN, Gender, DOB, Age, First Nation, Address, location of animal, name of animal owner and animal description, date of exposure, then any information on the injury under type of exposure and wound location. Name, Date of exposure and the history (provocation)of the bite are the critical pieces.</p> <p>When speaking to both the victim and animal owner explain the purpose of the investigation and give them a Rabies Fact Sheet.</p> <p>Offer mental health supports for the victim if appropriate.</p> <p>Animal Bite Investigators may follow up by site visit, phone call to a clients home or cell phone or place of work or even use social media to ask them to call you.</p>

4.	<p>Bites are provoked if the animal was acting as it should in nature:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Barking as a warning to an approaching person</li> <li>2. Being injured – tail stepped on or being ridden</li> <li>3. Protecting it's owner or home</li> <li>4. Protecting it's food or babies</li> <li>5. Being injured after a MVA</li> <li>6. Being in the middle of a dog fight</li> <li>7. Victim reaching into the dogs vehicle</li> <li>8. Reacting to loud noises – Skidoos, Motorbikes, Music</li> <li>9. A human being too close to it's face</li> <li>10. An animal being cornered</li> <li>11. An RCMP dog on duty</li> </ol> <p>NOTE: An <b>RCMP dog</b> that is under animal bite follow up receives the same day 1 and day 10 wellness check but is able to continue working as they require vaccination when an RCMP working dog.</p>
5.	<p>Again, this form should be faxed to NITHA the same date the injury occurred – preferably after the day 1 animal wellness check. The fax number is on the bottom of the form.</p>
6.	<p>Once received, the EHA will determine if the MHO is needed to consult on the injury for Rabies Prophylaxis vaccinations. Typically, high risk injuries are forwarded for consultation. High risk injuries are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Head bites</li> <li>2. Maulings</li> <li>3. Unprovoked</li> <li>4. An animal known to be unwell- please share symptoms</li> <li>5. Possibly if the animal cannot be located</li> </ol> <p>If the animal or client are from outside NITHA's jurisdiction, the EHA will complete and fax an Interjurisdictional Referral Form and fax it to the appropriate agency.</p>
7.	<p><b>If the MHO determines that RPEP is required</b> you will be faxed the following three items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instructions for Post Exposure Prophylaxis</li> <li>2. Refusal of Rabies Post Exposure Prophylaxis form</li> <li>3. Any instructions that comes with the vaccine.</li> </ol> <p>The vaccine would then need to be expedited to the Health Clinic from NITHA where the victim attends for services.</p> <p><b>If the MHO determines that Animal Euthanasia for Rabies testing is required:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Locate animal and receive owners permission to euthanize.</li> <li>2. Use local resources to humanely euthanize the animal – <b>without a gunshot to the head.</b></li> </ol>

	<p>3. Package the animal for shipping as per the NITHA Youtube video using the black and yellow animal rabies testing kit available in each health center.</p> <p>4. Inform NITHA EHA.</p> <p>5. NITHA EHA connects with Provincial vet (RRAV) to receive shipping instructions to available vet for sample preparation and shipping to the Rabies lab. EHA informs community and community coordinates transport to designated vet.</p> <p>If the rabies test comes back negative, any client receiving RPEP can stop treatment.</p>
8.	<p>Wellness follow ups are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Low risk bites – Day 1 and Day 10 of either the animal or the client but preferably both and faxed to NITHA after each wellness check.</li> <li>2. High Risk bites – Day 1, Day 5 and Day 10 of either the animal or victim but preferably both and faxed to NITHA after each wellness check.</li> </ol> <p>CHN's should immediately inform animal owners to monitor their animal closely for wellness for 10 days to avoid the multiple vaccinations if the RPEP is deemed required for a client.</p> <p>Upon contacting the owner complete the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain the purpose of the investigation.</li> <li>2. Determine if the animal is usually indoors or outdoors.</li> <li>3. Determine if the animal is vaccinated, when and what veterinary clinic.</li> <li>4. Has the animal travelled recently?</li> <li>5. Is the animal exposed to wild animals?</li> </ol>
9.	<p>Animals are considered well if they are eating, drinking, playing and responding to it's owner in a normal fashion. NOTE: not all animals with rabies will have froth at it's mouth from not being able to swallow.</p> <p>On day 10 if the animal is found to be well the victim should be notified along with any other jurisdiction if the victim was not in the same community.</p> <p>If on day 10 the animal is found to be unwell, euthanized or died, the EHA will inform the MHO for further action.</p>
10.	<p>Whether the animal or the client – the signs a CHN would look for, for wellness concerns would be neurological in nature.</p>
11.	<p>Stray or wild animals can be more difficult to close the file. The CHN</p>

	can connect with the Band Council or Chief and ask for them to report any strange deaths in the wild/stray animal population for further investigation during the 10 day watch time.
12.	If a community is having difficulty with animal bites or stray populations – CHN's are encouraged to aim for the Gold Standard to reduce these concerns which is an Animal Control Bylaw or an Animal Wellness Bylaw. These have been shown to be the best control measures in First Nation Communities if led by a member of the community. Many resources for writing bylaws are available on the NITHA website – <a href="http://www.nitha.com">www.nitha.com</a> along with many tools to educate on the responsibilities of pet ownerships/costs/housing and care etc