



10-Day Confinement of Domestic Dogs, Cats and
Ferrets that Bite People: Q&A and
Recommendations

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When is a domestic dog, cat, or ferret placed in a 10-day confinement? When a person is bitten by a domestic dog (*Canis lupus familiaris*), cat (*Felis catus*) or ferret (*Mustela putorius furo*), N.C. General Statute **130A-196 (State Law)** requires that the animal be immediately confined for 10 days in a place designated by the local health director, regardless of vaccination status. Ten-day confinements do not apply to exotic, wild or hybrid animals, including wolf hybrids.

Can the animal be confined at the owner's home? Yes, but only under certain conditions.

The law states that the local health director may allow the owner to confine the animal on the owner's property if the circumstances of the particular case warrant. The following conditions are recommended for implementation of a 10-day home confinement:

1. Biting animal is normal and healthy at onset of confinement.
2. Biting animal is currently vaccinated against rabies.

(If rabies vaccine is expired, wait to get animal updated vaccine until after the quarantine timeframe)

3. Bite was provoked.
4. There is no history of bite incidents (such as a repeat-offender dangerous dog).
5. Owner agrees to confine the animal at all times, supervise in fenced yard area or leash-walk.
6. Owner agrees to isolate the animal from people (except the immediate family) and other animals.
7. The animal will not be vaccinated nor given new medications during the confinement period.
8. The animal shall be monitored daily for changes in behavior or health, and the local animal control agency shall be notified immediately should any changes occur or if the animal dies.
9. Animal control shall make unannounced visits to examine the animal's health; the final examination to release confinement shall be after the 10th day (240 hours) from the bite incident.

Why would my animal need to be confined at a Veterinarian's office or the Animal Shelter?

1. An unvaccinated animal shall be isolated from other animals and not have contact with animals or with people other than the caretaker. If your vaccinated animal starts showing symptoms related to the rabies virus, take your animal to a vet or the animal shelter.
2. The owner may visit the animal but not remove the animal from the facility during confinement.
3. The animal will not be vaccinated nor given new medications during the confinement period.
4. The animal shall be monitored daily for changes in behavior or health, and animal control shall be notified immediately should any changes occur or if the animal dies.
5. The final examination by animal control to release confinement shall be after a full 10 days (240 hours) after the bite incident.
6. If not currently vaccinated, the animal shall be vaccinated against rabies at the end of the 10-day confinement period **(Do not vaccinate your pet during the quarantine time frame)**.

**** § 130A-185 states: Cats, Dogs and Ferrets over 4 months of age shall be vaccinated against rabies. Vaccination can only be administered by a licensed veterinarian or a certified rabies vaccinator. ****

****An owner who fails to confine an animal in accordance with the instructions of the local health director shall be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor. If the owner or the person who controls or possesses the animal that has bitten a person refuses to confine the animal as required by this subsection, the local health director may order seizure of the animal and its confinement for 10 days at the expense of the owner.**

Do's and Don'ts of 10 day Confinement

<u>DO</u>
Keep your dog on a leash when taking it outside for any reason.
Supervise your animal, when it is outside in a cage or fenced in back yard.
Keep cats indoors during the duration of the quarantine process.
Contact Health Department if your animal starts showing any signs or symptoms* that could be related to the rabies virus.

<u>DO NOT</u>
Leave your animal tied up to a tree, or outside unattended.
Give your animal away, release or euthanize it after a bite occurs, or during the quarantine period.
Take your animal to a park, or a place where they can come in contact with any other humans or animals.
Re-vaccinate your pet after a bite occurs, during the quarantine timeframe.

***Rabies Symptoms:** Clinical signs of rabies vary but may include abnormal behavior, lack of appetite, difficulty swallowing, aggression, loss of muscle control, seizures, excessive drooling, excitable or agitated behavior, staggering, paralysis, and sudden death.

Reminders

1. If an animal is under a confinement order, and is seen running loose, the Health Department or Animal Control should be called immediately.
2. If the animal is confined at the Animal Shelter, it must be picked up on the tenth (10th) day of confinement following the bite.
3. If the animal is confined at the Animal Shelter or a Veterinarian office, the owner must pay any confinement fees.
4. Any rabies related questions should be directed towards the Davidson County Health Department. If you have a medical emergency related to an animal bite, please call 911 or your physician.

Important Contacts

Davidson County Environmental Health Department: 336-242-2310

Davidson County Animal Control Dispatch: 336-249-0131

Davidson County Animal Shelter: 336-357-0805

**Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday: 10:00am – 4:30pm; Saturday: 10:00am – 1:30 pm
490 Glendale Road, Lexington, NC, 27292**