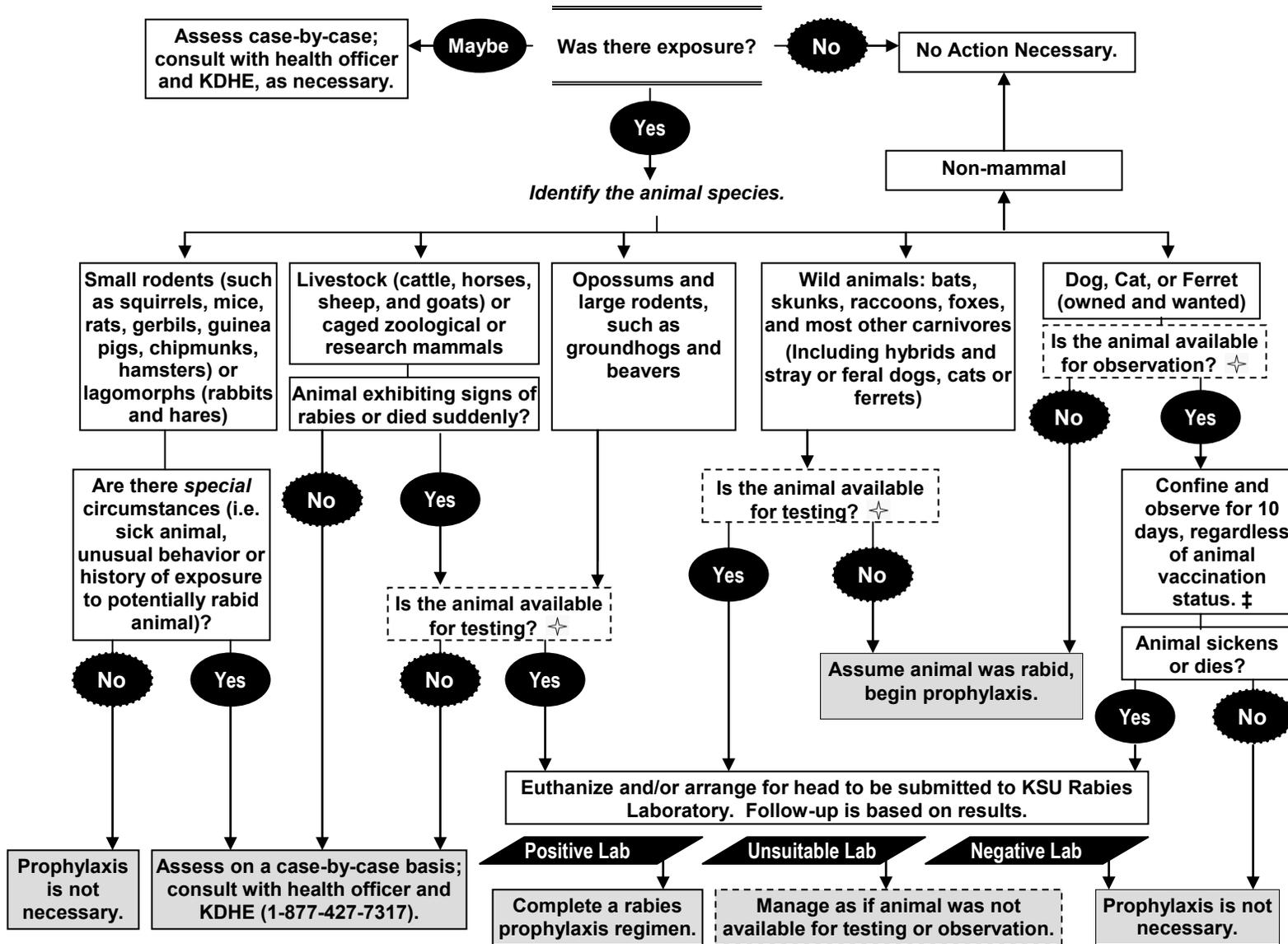


Rabies Exposure Assessment Algorithm: Human Exposures to Potentially Rabid Animal



Notes:

- 1) **Exposure:** any penetration of the skin by the teeth or any contamination of mucous membranes or fresh, open cuts in the skin with saliva or brain material. Please refer to note 2) for bats.
- 2) **Bat Exposure:** Every effort should be made to safely capture and test the bat involved. If the patient can provide an adequate testimony that while conscious, no direct exposure occurred then no PEP is necessary. If the patient is an unobserved child, or was an unobserved person who was asleep, intoxicated or mentally challenged, then PEP may be indicated if testing cannot be done.
- 3) **Immediate care:** Proper wound care should always occur. (i.e. cleaning area, tetanus booster and/or antibiotics, as needed)
- 4) **For consultation:** Contact a KDHE epidemiologist on call 24 hours/day any day.

* Exposed individuals may be offered post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) at anytime during the period of testing or observation if the situation is considered one of high risk for potential rabies transmission. If the animal is later determined not rabid, treatment should be stopped.

On a case-by-case basis, it may be allowable to wait to identify an animal's owner or to capture an offending animal (assuming the correct animal can be positively identified). The local health officer can waive any holding period in lieu of the urgency of the situation.

‡ For the 10 day observation period, day 0 is the day that the bite or exposure occurred.