City of San Antonio
Rabies Exposure Procedural Guidelines

All animal bites are *required* by Texas Law to be reported. The Animal Bite Report Form must be completed by the medical provider and sent via FAX to the following:

San Antonio Metropolitan Health District	**210-207-2839**
San Antonio Animal Care Services:	**210-207-6678**

If a person has had an exposure that may have potential for transmission of the rabies virus, there are several resources available to healthcare practitioners regarding how to manage a possible rabies exposure:

- San Antonio Metropolitan Health District (SAMHD) Rabies Surveillance Nurse at (210) 207-2095
- Animal Care Services veterinarian at (210) 207-6667
- CDC's Clinical Information Line at 877-554-4625, *24 hours a day, 7 days a week*
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); National Center for Infectious Diseases, website on rabies at: http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr57e507a1.htm
- *The Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, 29th Edition (2010 Red Book®)*
- *Rabies Prevention in Texas 2011*, Texas Department of State Health Services at: http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies/information/prevention/pamphlet/

All bite wounds must *first* be provided with proper wound care and treatment in an acute care or primary care setting (Emergency Department or Primary Care Provider). If rabies post exposure prophylaxis is clinically indicated, note the following:

1. Initial treatment consists of Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG) and the 1st dose of rabies vaccine (day 0). Subsequent doses should be administered by the patient's Primary Care Provider (PCP).

2. Administration of Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) is a medical urgency, not a medical emergency. Patients may purchase rabies vaccine from SAMHD to be administered in the PCP's office. In Texas, a rabies depot such as SAMHD is not under authorization to administer the vaccine, but rather to provide anti-rabies biologicals to health care providers.

3. The State has the right to refuse to provide anti-rabies biologicals if the incident in question does not warrant rabies PEP. The recommendations established by the U.S. Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) are used as guidelines for assessing rabies exposure. In the event that the incident in question does not warrant rabies PEP, the department will provide the medical professional the name of a source from which anti-rabies biologicals may be purchased.

4. Do not send patients to SAMHD without previously contacting the Rabies Surveillance Nurse. Anti-rabies biologicals may be administered to humans only by or under the supervision of a medical professional licensed to practice in Texas. Anti-rabies biologicals may be sold by SAMHD to the bearer of the medical professional's order for transport to a medical professional and subsequent administration to the patient by or under the supervision of a medical professional

5. Once contact is made with the SAMHD Rabies Surveillance Nurse, the anti-rabies biologicals order will be made. It will take approximately 24 hours for vaccine delivery. The Rabies Surveillance Nurse will contact the patient to arrange for vaccine pick-up, at which time the patient should also schedule an appointment with their PCP on the same day as vaccine delivery.

6. The Rabies Surveillance Nurse will send a packet with rabies information to PCP with the patient. For patients who will begin and complete rabies treatment with PCP the prescription is to indicate: HRIG, patient's weight, and 4 doses of rabies vaccine. HRIG schedule will be included in the rabies information packet for physicians.

7. Additional doses of rabies vaccine are to be administered on days 3, 7, 14. *Note: Immunocompromised patients should receive a fifth dose of vaccine on day 28.

For further instructions on requirements to obtain rabies vaccine, patients or providers may call 210-207-2095. This call may help facilitate a better understanding for completion of the patient's treatment needs.

METRO HEALTH
SAN ANTONIO'S PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM