



**Generic Contingency Plan
for an Outbreak
of a Notifiable Animal Disease**

Annex D

Rabies

Issue 1 – July 09

Contents

The contents of Annex D on Rabies **must** be read in conjunction with the Generic Notifiable Animal Disease Contingency Plan Template for Local Authorities in England (the 'Generic Contingency Plan').

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1. Introduction

This plan contains information relating to the control of Rabies in animals ONLY. The plan does not cover human health.

This Annex only contains information that is applicable during an outbreak of Rabies. All structures, stakeholders, roles and information that are relevant to all notifiable animal diseases are contained within the main contingency plan.

Unless otherwise stated, the term "local authority" should be taken to mean the county/ unitary council. District/ borough councils (with the exception of the London Borough Councils) have no direct involvement under the Rabies (Control) Order 1974. However, they may be able to provide support in the event of an outbreak, particularly in relation to the capture and detainment of stray and uncontrolled animals, and should be consulted in the drafting of the Rabies contingency plan.

In the context of this document, 'Animal Health' refers to the Defra agency (formerly the State Veterinary Service).

1.1 Overview of the disease

The Rabies virus causes acute infection of the central nervous system. Infection is almost always spread by the bite of an infected animal, but can also occur through scratches and licks to mucous membranes or broken skin. Once clinical signs develop, Rabies is invariably fatal and there is no known cure. Signs of the disease include paralysis and aggression, leading to a painful death. It may take several months after infection for the disease to develop and signs appear.

More than 55,000 people die of Rabies each year, with about 95% of human deaths occurring in Asia and Africa. Half of the global human population live in an area where Rabies is endemic in canines; endemic canine Rabies contributes to more than 99% of all human Rabies cases.

The risk of contracting Rabies is deemed to be extremely low in Western Europe. Classical Rabies (the strain usually found in land mammals) was eradicated from Great Britain in 1922, and the disease is absent in UK land mammals. The last human death from indigenous Rabies in Great Britain was in 1902. Since 1946, 24 people have died from the disease in Great Britain – all were infected abroad.

The disease can affect all mammals, including humans, dogs, cats, wildlife and farmed animals. Of the common species of animals in the UK, the fox is the most highly susceptible. However, most small wild animals, cats, dogs and farm animals can also be readily infected. Non-predatory animals such as cattle, sheep, pigs and horses are susceptible but rarely transmit the disease. The classical Rabies virus has never been found in bats. However another strain of the virus, European Bat Lyssaviruses 2 (EBLV2), has been detected at a low prevalence in certain species of bats in Great Britain. EBLV2 can cause a Rabies-like illness in humans.

Advice from the Department of Health is that humans can contract Rabies if they are bitten, scratched or licked on mucous membranes or broken skin by an infected animal. Effective treatment after a bite from an infected animal is available but must be started as soon as possible after the bite to stop the disease developing. People who are at particular risk of exposure to the Rabies virus should seek advice on vaccination – this includes those working in quarantine kennels in UK and bat conservation workers.

1.2 Risk of Rabies spreading to the UK

Mandatory import legislation and checks reduce the risk of importing the disease into the UK to a very low level.

Animal quarantine has been the primary control method used to maintain freedom from Rabies in the UK since 1793. Most species of Rabies-susceptible animals entering the UK have to spend six months in quarantine (as required by The Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974), unless arriving under and complying with all the conditions of the UK Pet Travel Scheme (PETS).

The UK Pet Travel Scheme (EU Regulation 998/2003) was originally set up in 2000. PETS sets up a system whereby pet dogs, cats and ferrets from selected countries can avoid quarantine provided certain conditions are met, including vaccination against the disease six months before travel. Although originally limited to countries within the European Union, the PETS country list has now expanded to include countries outside the EU, including the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Russian Federation.

The greatest risk of transmission of virus to UK is from the illegal import of animals infected abroad (particularly domestic pets such as dogs and cats) or the failure to detect and detain a non-compliant Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) animal.

1.3 LACORS Generic Notifiable Animal Disease Contingency Plan Template for Local Authorities in England and Annex D on Rabies

The contents of Annex D on Rabies must be read in conjunction with the Generic Notifiable Animal Disease Contingency Plan Template for Local Authorities in England (hereafter referred to as the Generic Plan).

Annex D only contains information that is applicable during an outbreak of Rabies. All structures, stakeholders, roles and information that are relevant to all notifiable animal diseases are contained within the main contingency plan.

Further details are also available in the Exotic Animal Disease Generic Contingency Plan produced by Defra. This is available at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/control/contingency/index.htm>.

1.4 Summary of local authority role

This section gives an overview of the local authority role in relation to animal health ONLY. It does not cover human health. The term 'local authority' refers to the county or unitary council.

Rabies is a notifiable animal disease. Local authorities have statutory duties in relation to notifiable animal diseases, including Rabies. These are laid out by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Animal Health Act 1981 and European Communities Act 1972. More information is available in the Generic Plan.

The Rabies (Control) Order 1974 gives Defra the power to introduce a range of controls and restrictions in the event of a Rabies incident/ outbreak. Local authorities are responsible for enforcing many of these restrictions and controls. Depending on the nature of the Rabies incident/ outbreak, local authorities may be responsible for: erecting warning signs; capturing and detaining stray and uncontrolled animals; enforcing restrictions and requirements relating to the control, identification and confinement of domestic animals, animal movements and gatherings; and the cleansing and disinfection of infected premises.

Local authorities will also play an essential role in ensuring that their communities are accurately made aware of the current situation and any restrictions upon activities, without causing panic or undue concern.

District and borough councils have no direct involvement under the Rabies (Control) Order 1974 (with the exception of the London Borough Councils). However, they may be able to provide support in the event of an outbreak, particularly in relation to the capture and detainment of stray and uncontrolled animals - see *Section 5.1.1*.

2. Epidemiology

2.1 The Rabies virus

Rabies is caused by a virus belonging to the family Rhabdoviridae, genus Lyssavirus. Within the Lyssavirus genus there are six other closely related viruses which can cause Rabies-like disease in mammals. One of these, European Bat Lyssavirus 2 (EBLV2), affects bats in Europe. Although it comes from the same family of viruses as Rabies, it is a different strain to that which causes 'classical' Rabies in dogs and many other domestic and wild animals.

2.2 Transmission

The most common means of transmission is by the bite of an infected animal. Other routes of transmission include contamination of open wounds, scratches or mucous membranes (e.g. eye, nose, mouth) with infected saliva. Animals may excrete virus in their saliva before the development of clinical signs, for up to 13 days in dogs. An animal bitten by a rabid animal during the past few days will not have Rabies virus present in its own saliva and is not, therefore, a risk to animals and people.

Humans usually become infected with Rabies through the bite of infected dogs or cats, or sometimes wild animal species like foxes and bats. Cattle, horses, deer and other herbivores can become infected with Rabies and although they could potentially transmit the virus to other animals and to people, this rarely occurs. There are no documented cases of human-to-human spread (other than a few historic cases relating to corneal transplant).

The virus does not survive long outside the host.

2.3 Clinical signs in animals

The Rabies virus causes acute infection of the central nervous system. Once signs of the disease develop, Rabies is fatal to both animals and humans. In animals, the overall period from onset of clinical signs to death rarely exceeds 15 days.

The incubation period of the disease is highly variable. It may take any time from a few days to many months for clinical signs to appear (hence the use of a six-month quarantine for imported pets). However, signs of infection are usually seen within a few weeks.

There are three main stage of the disease:

- **Prodromal** stage - infected animals may show behavioural changes, with normally friendly animals becoming snappy and antisocial and timid, shy animals (and wild animals) becoming less restrained and unnaturally approachable.
- **Excitement** stage ("furious Rabies") - infected animals may become excitable and aggressive, have convulsions, exhibit a staring expression, sagging of the lower jaw, copious salivation and a noticeable change in the register of the voice.
- **Paralytic** stage ("dumb Rabies") – infected animals may experience progressive hind limb paralysis causing staggering and show respiratory distress, quickly followed by coma and death.

Not all animals will go through each stage and some die without showing any signs of infection at all.

The disease tends to progress differently in different species. In over 70% dogs, the prodromal stage is immediately followed by the paralytic stage, whereas cats are more likely to develop furious Rabies. Clinically

affected bats may fly during the day, or be found on the ground. Livestock species tend to show the paralytic form, whereas camels are sometimes said to behave like an animal in rut.

2.4 Diagnosis

Until an animal shows signs of being infected (i.e. behavioural changes) it is not possible to identify whether exposure to the virus has resulted in infection. Once an animal shows clinical signs, it is possible for tests to be conducted on samples of skin or cornea, but these tests are not always reliable or available.

Following death from suspect Rabies, tests are conducted on brain tissue. These tests will accurately show whether the animal was infected with Rabies or not.

3. Legislation

This plan covers the control of Rabies in animals. It does not cover human health. There is additional public health legislation relating to reporting and control of Rabies in humans.

The overarching requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Animal Health Act 1981 as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002 and the European Communities Act 1972, are detailed in the LACORS Generic Notifiable Animal Disease Contingency Plan for Local Authorities in England.

The legislative information provided within this Annex relates specifically to Rabies.

3.1 Animal Health Act 1981, as amended by the Animal Health Act 2002

The Animal Health Act 1981 is the enabling legislation under which the powers to control Rabies are set out in the Rabies (Control) Order 1974

The Act as amended 2002 provides for the control of outbreaks of animal diseases, including Rabies. This includes the slaughter of any animals for the purposes of preventing the spread of Rabies, regardless of whether it is confirmed that they have been exposed to the disease or are suspected of having been. This allows for the slaughter of stray animals where it is not clear where they have come from or what other animals they have been exposed to. The Act as amended also allows animals to be slaughtered wherever necessary to prevent the spread of disease (a 'firebreak' cull).

3.2 Rabies (Control) Order 1974

The Order provides the flexibility needed to deal with the varying situations that could arise. It provides the Secretary of State with a series of measures to meet particular situations which he may invoke at his discretion.

The key provisions of the Order are as follows:

- a. **Reporting of Rabies** - Article 4 prescribes the circumstances and procedures under which every citizen has a legal obligation to report a suspected case of Rabies to an "Inspector" or a police constable.
- b. **Declaration of infected place and follow up** - Article 5, together with Article 7 and the statutory form at Schedule 2, lays down the procedure by which the infected place shall be declared and notified to the "appropriate authority". It provides that an inspector may, on reasonable grounds of suspicion that an animal suffering from Rabies or a suspect is, or has been, on premises, declare an "infected place" and invoke the specified rules. Only a "veterinary inspector" (i.e. a Ministry veterinary officer) may revoke the notice or vary, revoke or add to the rules by imposing a further notice (Article 5(3), 5(4)).
- c. **Veterinary inquiry** - Article 6 places responsibility on a veterinary inspector to carry out a veterinary inquiry into a suspected case of Rabies and provides the necessary powers to conduct such an inquiry.
- d. **Slaughter of a suspect animal** - Article 8 provides a veterinary inspector with the power, subject to a prescribed notice, to require slaughter of an animal suspected of having Rabies.

- e. **Declaration of an infected area** - Article 9 provides power to declare an "infected area" by Order to control an outbreak of suspected Rabies. It also provides for the infected area to be divided into zones so that different combinations of measures may be applied in different zones.

The provisions in Articles 10 (Power to destroy foxes), 11 (Power to prohibit activities on specified land) and 12 (Erection of notices) would automatically be brought into effect by the declaration of infected area, but the measures would be implemented only as necessary and at the Secretary of State's discretion. The optional powers, which may or may not be invoked by the Secretary of State in an infected area Order, are listed in Schedule 3 of the Control Order and can be brought into operation in such combination and over such zones as the Secretary of State may apply. They provide for movement controls over animals, their confinement and control, seizure and detention or destruction of animals not properly confined or controlled.

3.3 The Rabies (Importation of Dogs, Cats and Other Mammals) Order 1974 (as amended 1977, 1984, 1986 and 1994)

Article 5(5) extends the quarantine period of any animal detained at particular quarantine premises if:

- a) an outbreak of Rabies occurs at those premises; or
- b) there is reason to suspect that an animal presently or previously detained there might be or have been infected with Rabies.

In the unlikely event that control powers are found to be insufficient in a future outbreak, additional powers will be sought under the Animal Health Act 1981.

3.4 Rabies (Compensation) Order 1976

The Rabies (Compensation) Order 1976 provides for compensation for animals compulsorily slaughtered as Rabies suspects under Article 8 of the Order. The rates of compensation agreed with the Treasury for compulsory slaughter are 100 per cent of market value for animals not diagnosed as rabid and 50 per cent of market value (disregarding any depreciation due to Rabies) for animals which are so diagnosed.

Compensation would not be payable in respect of animals destroyed under powers provided by other Articles of the Order – e.g. for wildlife destroyed under Article 10 or animals seized and destroyed because they were not properly confined or controlled under infected area regulations.

3.5 Control of Dogs Order 1992 (enforced by district and unitary authorities)

This Order requires most dogs to wear a collar with owner's name and address.

4. Overview of disease stages and controls

The Rabies (Control) Order 1974 allows for the introduction of a series of measures aimed at containing and controlling the disease, the majority of which will be enforced by local authorities. This section provides an overview of the action likely to follow the notification of a suspect animal and confirmation of disease and the controls that may be introduced at the discretion of the Secretary of State as the source and spread of disease is identified. It is not possible to anticipate the severity of the restrictions that will be put in place if Rabies is confirmed, as these will be introduced by Defra in consideration of the particular situation and associated veterinary risk.

4.1 Action on confirmation of disease – summary

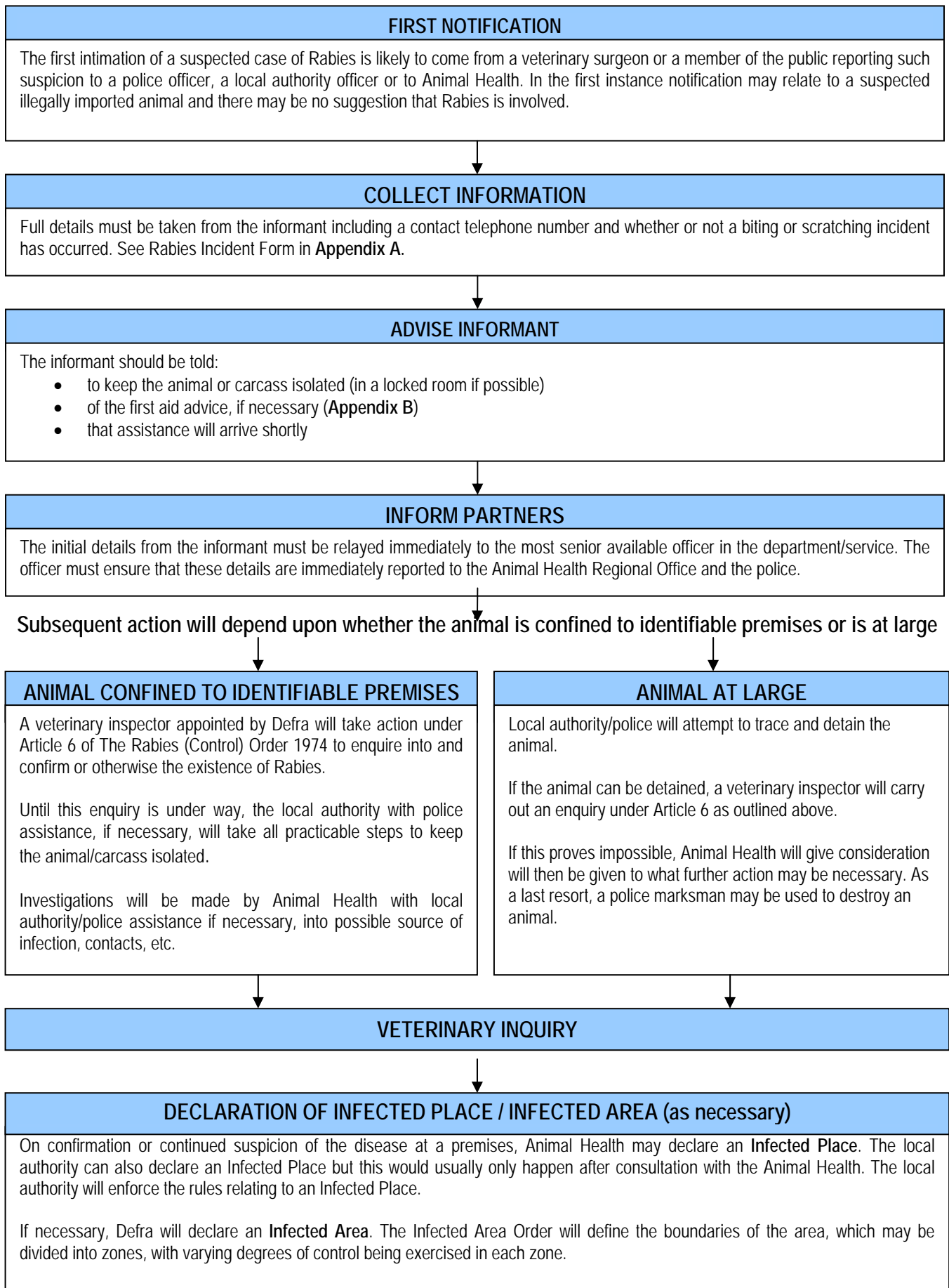
Confirmation of Rabies disease in animals will be made by the Chief Veterinary Officer, normally on the basis of laboratory findings. Initial efforts by Animal Health are likely to focus on tracing the origin of infection, how and when the disease entered the country, and possible contact cases. This will assist in establishing the likely extent of spread of disease and whether there is likely to be any (further) wildlife involvement.

It is possible to contain the disease in domestic animals. Suspect cases and contact animals can be confined in isolation under an **Infected Place** notice or humanely destroyed. Where it is known that potential transmission is limited to identified domestic animals, it may be that no further restrictions are put in place.

If it is not possible to identify whether a rabid animal has had contact with domestic animals or wildlife, Defra will declare an Infected Area (IA). The extent of the IA will be determined by Defra in consideration of veterinary risks. Animals within the IA and those moving into and out of the IA could be subject to movement controls. Additional controls may include the compulsory identification and vaccination of domestic animals, the vaccination or destruction of wildlife, restriction of public access to some areas and a ban on gatherings of animals. The IA may be divided into **Zones**, with different controls in each zone.

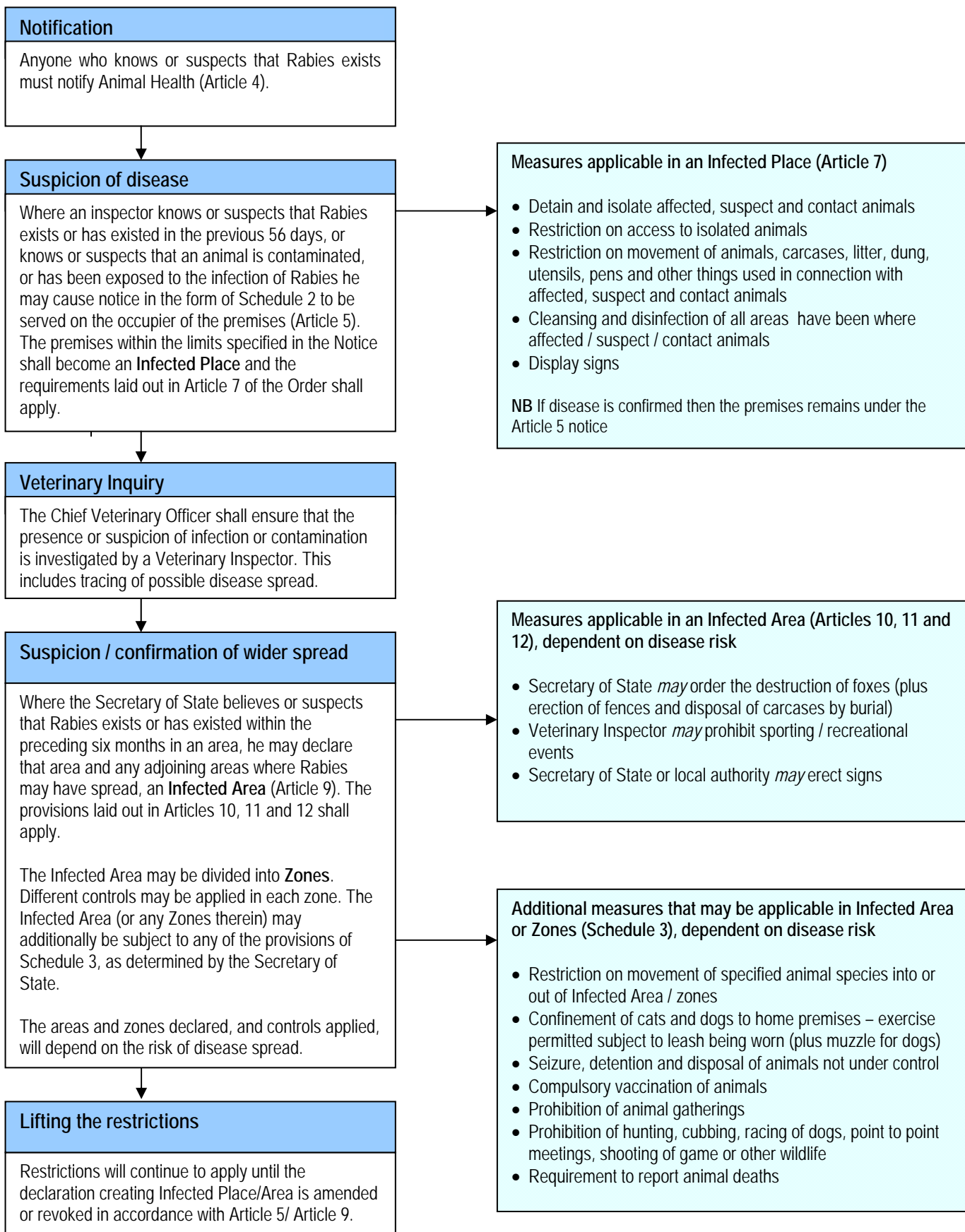
A diagram highlighting the disease controls and measures available to the Secretary of State is contained in *Section 4.3* below.

4.2 Diagram - Action on notification of a suspect Rabies case



4.3 Diagram - Disease stages and controls

The following diagram details the various stages of a Rabies investigation and outbreak, and the restrictions that may be applied under The Rabies (Control) Order 1974.



5. Local authority functions and responsibilities – PREPARATION & PLANNING

This Rabies Annex should be read in conjunction with the LACORS' Generic Contingency Plan, which contains all information on all structures, stakeholders and roles relevant to all notifiable animal diseases. The contingency plans do not cover human health.

A Rabies outbreak would present a number of specific challenges to local authorities not applicable in outbreaks of other notifiable diseases, particularly in relation to the capture and detainment of stray and uncontrolled animals.

It is recommended that local authorities liaise with other stakeholders, including Borough/District Councils, during the development of their Contingency Plan to establish the level equipment and expertise available in their area. It is also recommended that the identification and staffing of potential detention pounds be considered when developing the local Plan.

5.1 Liaison with delivery partners

The effective management of an outbreak of Rabies, particularly in loose animals, will involve close coordination across a range of stakeholders. The majority of these functions remain the same for all types of notifiable animal disease and are comprehensively detailed within the Generic Plan. However, the nature of a Rabies incident or outbreak will present particular challenges and some additional considerations.

5.1.1. Borough/District councils

Although Borough/District councils, with the exception of the London Borough Councils, have no direct involvement under the Rabies (Control) Order 1974, some authorities may have informal or formal arrangements with their local Borough/District Councils for the provision of staff in the event of an outbreak.

Many Borough/District councils have appointed Dog Wardens under Sections 149 to 151 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This places further obligations on Borough/District Councils in relation to control of dogs. Liaison will need to take place between the various authorities as to the best use of resources in the event of an outbreak, and the skills of the Dog Warden used to capture stray dogs.

Consideration should also be given to the fact that some councils will have outsourced their dog warden functions. Borough/District authorities involved in the drafting of contingency plans should ensure they liaise as appropriate with any outsourced dog warden service to establish what support and equipment may be available in the event of a Rabies outbreak. This may need to be considered at the point of contract negotiation.

Borough/District and Unitary councils will also have details of a range of licensed animal establishments operating within their area, including pet shops, dog breeding and boarding establishments, riding establishments and zoos. Consideration should be given to how these lines of communication could be used in the event of an outbreak.

5.1.2 Other delivery partners and stakeholders

This section focuses on delivery; more general information on the identification of, and communication with, key stakeholders can be found in *Section 7 - Local authority functions and responsibilities* –

COMMUNICATION. This section should also be read in conjunction with the information contained in the Generic Contingency Plan, which outlines roles of delivery partners relevant to all notifiable animal health diseases.

a. Animal Health

LACORS is clarifying the level of veterinary support local authorities could expect to receive from Animal Health and Official Veterinarians - e.g. at detention pounds - and the mechanisms for arranging, managing and funding any OV involvement.

b. Police

Police will be able to assist local authorities enforce restrictions and round up suspect animals. If an animal is too inaccessible or too ferocious to capture, a police marksperson may need to be engaged. The police will also be able to provide support for any public disturbances. The police also have enforcement responsibilities for the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

c. Health Protection Agency

The Health Protection Agency is responsible of the human health aspect. If animal Rabies is suspected, the manager of the regional Animal Health office will inform the Consultant in Communicable Disease Control (CCDC) at the local Health Protection Unit (HPU). It is recommended that local authorities engage with the local HPU when drafting their contingency plan. Publicity about the control of the outbreak will be dealt with by Defra, but advice and information on the human health aspect will be given by the Health Protection Agency / Department of Health.

d. Port Health authorities

Port Health Authorities make sure that controls on importing or landing animals that may carry Rabies are strictly observed. Port Health Authorities may hold equipment useful in the event of a Rabies outbreak.

e. Local vets

A local Vet from the **Official Veterinarian list**¹ will need to be engaged to visit the pound to assess animals and destroy unclaimed animals. More generally, local vets will need to remain vigilant to the possibility to Rabies in animals they see. Vets can also help communicate advice to the general public, and may be able to offer support.

f. RSPCA and other welfare organisations

Animal welfare organisations with an inspectorate, animal collection function or kennelling facilities, may be able to provide support (e.g. dog catching equipment, disseminating messages to the public). It may also be necessary to coordinate work with such organisations in the event of a Rabies incident or outbreak to ensure that they are not taking in or picking up animals in the area under investigation. Local authorities may wish to consult with such organisations when drafting their Contingency Plan to ensure that there are clear channels of communication in the event of an outbreak.

5.2 Inventory of equipment and staff

The amount of equipment that is kept in stock will depend on the size of individual local authorities, together with storage capacity. Consideration should also be given to likely maintenance requirements.

Councils are encouraged to ensure that sufficient equipment is maintained in order deal with the early days of an outbreak and any reports of illegal landings. Councils are encouraged to create and maintain an

¹ Clarification needed (see 5.1.2.a – Animal Health)

inventory of all relevant equipment that is held by neighbouring authorities for sharing should the need arise. A list of equipment and supplies and an equipment inventory template are available in appendices D and E respectively.

When new office vans are being procured it is sensible for them to be specified with a solid bulkhead (between the load carrying and drivers areas) with the load carrying area lined with tying points and provision of additional ventilation. This would enable such vehicles to be put into immediate service should the need ever arise.

In the event of a Rabies outbreak, only staff with the appropriate level of vaccination should handle suspect animals. This includes members of the stray-catching teams and staff at the animal detention pound. Local authorities should assess whether they wish to vaccinate certain staff in advance of an outbreak.

Local authorities may additionally wish to consider how they will access security services should these be required to prevent unauthorised access at any animal detention centre.

Local authorities should also consider their arrangements for the vaccination of staff, both during and in advance of an outbreak (e.g. pre-exposure prophylaxis). Further information is contained in *Section 8 – Health and Safety of Local Authority Staff*.

5.3 Identification of detention pound

It is recommended that local authorities identify premises that may be used in advance of a disease situation. In the event of an outbreak, the detention pound will need to be located in the Infected Area. As the size and location will vary, it is advisable to identify a range of possible locations. If this is not possible, suitable industrial units may be available on a short-term lease basis and most local authorities will have a department that can assist with the identification and lease of appropriate premises.

To determine suitability of a premises, local authorities should refer to the *Appendix H* which contains details of structural, staffing and equipment requirements for a detention pound.

6. Local authority functions and responsibilities - IMPLEMENTATION

This plan contains information relating to the control of Rabies in animals ONLY. The plan does not cover human health.

6.1 Overview of local authority role

Local authorities will be key to the effective control and eradication of a disease situation, and in ensuring that the needs of the local community are provided for. The Secretary of State has a certain degree of flexibility in terms of the control measures applied depending on the circumstances of the disease outbreak, and local authorities are strongly advised to carefully examine individual Declaratory Orders.

It should be noted that the nature and transmission of Rabies is different to diseases such as Foot and Mouth and therefore it often does not involve the same level of restrictions and movement controls. The extent of the structures and systems brought into play will depend on the nature and circumstances of the outbreak.

Local authorities will play an essential role in ensuring that their communities are accurately made aware of the current situation and any restrictions upon activities, without causing panic or undue concern. This role must be fulfilled through all feasible avenues, but particularly via animal health and welfare, emergency planning and communications functions.

The details provided below must be utilised in conjunction with the Generic Plan.

6.2 Key considerations

The key considerations for all local authority functions during an outbreak of Rabies will be:

- Determining if resources are sufficient to implement controls and enforce restrictions
- Effective communication with local communities and affected industries
- Controlling media interest
- Managing fears and risks to human health (NB – human health is not covered in this plan)
- Establishing strong communication links with Animal Health, Health Protection Agency, police and other authorities (including district and neighbouring councils)
- Attending Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) meetings
- Door-to-door visits as necessary

The cooperation and vigilance of the general public will be essential to ensuring the disease is contained and eliminated, and local authorities must remain aware that there will be immediate and extensive interest in suspect or confirmed cases of Rabies. Further information is contained in *Section 7 – Local authority Functions and Responsibilities – COMMUNICATION*.

6.3 ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE ENFORCEMENT FUNCTION

Comprehensive information about the role of the Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Function during an animal disease outbreak is included within the LACORS generic contingency plan.

6.3.1 Job specifications

The job specifications produced within the generic contingency plan for the Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Manager and Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Office Based Support remain the same for all disease situations. A general overview of the requirements to be fulfilled by the Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Officer has been included within the Generic Plan, and therefore the information in this section must be viewed in conjunction with the Generic Plan.

The Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Function is usually performed within the Trading Standards or Environmental Health service of a local authority. In the event of a widespread outbreak of Rabies it is likely that the local authority will require a number of individuals to fulfil the role of Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Officer.

Specific responsibilities of the Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Officer may include:

- Receipt of notification of suspect Rabies cases and reporting to the regional Animal Health office.
- Serving a notice (*Appendix C*) declaring and defining the limits of an infected place (this would usually only happen after consultation with the Animal Health, whose inspectors also have power to serve such a notice and would usually lead in this respect).
- Ensuring compliance with cleansing and disinfection requirements
- Erecting notices as required
- Establishing temporary pounds to detain stray animals
- Seizing and detaining of animals in accordance with the Order
- Serving of notices for the confinement of cats, dogs and other animals and the enforcement of the restrictions imposed
- Notifying the public of the arrangements for the detention of animals and how their owners may claim seized animals.
- Liaising with Emergency Planning Officers on implementation of contingency plans, assistance with establishing disease outbreak "incident rooms"
- Providing advice on public health implications (NB – this would need to be done in close liaison with the local Health Protection Unit which will lead on matters relating to human health)
- Responding to enquiries from farmers, pet owners and the general public
- Monitoring animal welfare
- Liaising effectively with local Operational Partners e.g. Animal Health, police, and RSPCA
- Providing an appropriate representative to attend the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC)
- Providing advice required on the enforcement perspective and local authority viewpoint
- Proactively disseminating advice and education to local communities through established communication channels.

An Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Officer job description providing further details about the activities unique to an outbreak of Rabies is included in *Appendix F*. Separate job descriptions for staff working at animal detention pounds are included in *Appendix G*.

As with all other roles, the level of resource dedicated to the Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Officer post will depend upon the nature and extent of the disease situation. If necessary, authorities should consider the secondment of officers from other local authorities, particularly from areas of the country not so badly affected and District/Borough councils for catching team/ detention pound staffing.

As highlighted in the Generic Contingency Plan, the level of resource required within a local authority to perform each job specification will vary depending upon the type and extent of the notifiable disease situation. Each local authority will also have to consider the level of resource that can be committed to

control of the disease, and should escalate any resource concerns through established regional and national communication channels.

6.3.1 Initiation and activation

The control strategy activated in the event of a Rabies outbreak will vary depending on the spread of disease:

a) Infected Place

If Rabies outbreak is contained, the declaration of an Infected Place will likely be deemed sufficient to prevent the spread of the disease. In this instance, local authority action will focus on ensuring the occupier of the Infected Place complies with the measures laid out in Article 7 of the Order – i.e. that animals are isolated; restrictions on the movement of animals, carcasses, litter, dung, utensils and pens are complied with; appropriate signs are erected, and; cleansing and disinfection is undertaken.

b) Infected Area

Where Rabies is found to be circulating more widely within domestic animals and/or terrestrial wildlife mammals (or where this possibility cannot be ruled out) Defra may declare an Infected Area (IA). The local authority role and level of resource required will be dependent on the size of the IA and the controls in place. The IA may be additionally be divided into separate zones in which different control measures apply.

In the event that an Infected Area is declared, local authorities and the police will play an important role in the enforcement of any movement restrictions or animal control requirements stipulated in the Declaratory Order. Authorities should ensure that sufficient resources are deployed to carry out these functions.

In particular, local authorities within an Infected Area must quickly assess whether they have sufficient capacity to effectively enforce any movement restrictions, seize animals and adequately staff detention pounds. If necessary, an authority should consider buying in resources in the form of secondment of animal health staff and dog wardens from other local authorities (including District councils) around the country. In order to assist with this, LACORS has produced Guidance on the Secondment of Officers during an Animal Disease Outbreak – details of this can be found in *Section 9 – Additional Information Sources*.

6.3.2 Disease management and control

During a widespread Rabies outbreak, the local authority Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Function will deliver a range of activities that are standard to all notifiable animal disease outbreaks, including the enforcement of movement restrictions.

One of the key responsibilities of the local authority is to provide on-going representation at the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC). This will enable the local authority to gain up-to-date information about the management of the disease, and to raise any disease control issues.

Animal Health will take the lead in the veterinary inspection and tracing of possible disease spread. The role of Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Officers may have to be reviewed if an outbreak of Rabies becomes widespread, and veterinary resource can no longer cope with the full range of demands upon their time.

It should be noted that controls introduced to manage an outbreak of Rabies will be different depending on the circumstances of the outbreak - for example, whether Rabies is confirmed in isolated pet animals, found to be circulating in terrestrial wildlife or occurs at a farm. The control zones declared by the Secretary of State and the measures within them may also be different depending on the circumstances of the disease and throughout different stages of the disease. Local authorities are advised to carefully examine individual Declaratory Orders.

Policy advice and general information made available by Defra / LACORS may change rapidly in the event of a Rabies outbreak. Local authorities must maintain proactive awareness of the current situation and guidance through the Defra and LACORS website. It is suggested that a designated officer is given responsibility for routinely checking their websites for updated information.

6.3.4 Animal collection, detention and destruction

Animal catching and collection team

This is a major role of local authorities and, depending on circumstances, there might be a need to set up an animal collection team(s) to deal with stray and uncontrolled animals. Local authorities also have the powers to seize animals where the owner has failed to comply with the control provisions, to dispose of that animal as is thought fit and to investigate potential offences.

Many Borough/District councils have appointed Dog Wardens under Sections 149 to 151 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and have obligations in relation to control of dogs. Ideally local authorities should give consideration to the expertise and equipment available in their area at the planning stage (see *Section 5 – Local Authority Functions and Responsibilities – PREPARATION AND PLANNING*).

If an animal shows signs of having the disease, the collection team should contact the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) and a request be made for the attendance of a specialist Animal Health team. As a last resort, a police marksperson may be used to destroy an animal.

Detention pound

One or more detention pounds may be set up by local authorities within the infected area. Ideally, local authorities should already have identified potential locations for pounds as part of their standard contingency planning practice, and procured - perhaps on a regional shared basis - the appropriate equipment (*Section 5 – Local authority functions and responsibilities – PREPARATION AND PLANNING*).

Animal Health and Defra will need to be informed, via the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC), of the location of any detention pounds. Records will need to be kept, detailing animals detained, released and destroyed (refer to *Appendix I*). Detention pounds should comply with the legislation and be appropriately located, constructed, maintained and staffed (see *Appendix H*).

Destruction of animals

It is not likely that the number of carcasses for destruction will be very high during a Rabies outbreak in comparison to other notifiable diseases, e.g. FMD or Avian Influenza. Incineration will be the main disposal route.

- **Unclaimed animals** – Animals may be destroyed if:
 - a) they are unclaimed after three days;
 - b) the owner is not prepared to pay the appropriate fee for its keep, or;
 - c) the animal needs to be detained for a further period and the owner is not willing to pay the likely expenses incurred.

- **Destruction and disposal service** - Animal Health will consider establishing a destruction service to discourage pet owners from abandoning their animals (a course that might seriously hamper the control efforts in an infected area). It is probable that some local authority staff would be involved in the operation of such a service.
- **Fox destruction** – Animal Health may be required to undertake the destruction of foxes within a defined area. Local authority assistance may be requested to signpost the area and notify the public and landowners. If military assistance is required, this will be organised by Defra.

6.4 Other local authority services

There is a range of key local authority services that play an essential role in the event of a notifiable animal disease outbreak.

The Generic Plan includes an overview of each key local authority function throughout a disease outbreak, including animal health and welfare enforcement, highways and footpaths, communications and emergency planning. The outline for each function also includes job specifications that must be performed to achieve the overall requirements in that area.

The main role played by each of these areas remains the same for each notifiable disease, and therefore local authorities should utilise the generic plan for this information.

All local authority representatives and key services must remain aware that a major concern will be the impact of the disease on the local community in terms of public concern about the risks of themselves or their animals becoming infected, as well as access to the countryside if the disease is in wild animals. Liaison between all services (particularly between the local authority, Animal Health and the Health Protection Agency) is therefore vitally important to ensure that the approach to disease management is joined up, considers the needs and concerns of the local community and works to ensure public health.

Communication with local residents is also of paramount importance. Emergency planning and communications services must remain aware that accurate and timely communication with local residents will be a key function (see *Section 7 – Local authority functions and responsibilities – COMMUNICATION*).

6.5 Stand down and recovery

The disease will be of significant economic importance in areas where the disease becomes endemic. In the event of wildlife Rabies, controls are likely to be in place for an extended period of many months, perhaps years. Assurances on Rabies status are required for trade in live animals and products. As such, the disease may have significant economic implications for this trade.

Expensive vaccination of animals may be necessary to protect animals from the disease, and the relaxation of controls may be dependent on the roll out of a vaccination plan. Dogs and cats in the Infected Area may have to be vaccinated and issued with tags and certificates before it is possible to relax the controls on exercise, leashing and muzzling. Livestock may only be permitted to enter the Infected Area for grazing if they had been vaccinated.

The Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Function within local authorities should follow the stand down and recovery procedures laid down within the Generic Plan. The function should also provide input to the authority-wide Strategic Recovery Group.

Due to the potential impact on the local economy, a Strategic Recovery Group may be established, depending on the circumstances. This should comprise of representatives from services across the local authority, and could even engage the local community, for example tourism, business and industry groups. The Strategic Recovery Group should continue to monitor the economic status of the local area with a view to ensuring satisfactory recovery.

Other local authority services should also follow the stand down and recovery procedures laid down in the Generic Plan.

7. Local authority functions and responsibilities - COMMUNICATION

7.1 Identification of local stakeholders

Key stakeholders and wider stakeholders that are relevant to all notifiable animal health diseases are listed within the generic contingency plan. This section outlines the wider stakeholders that may be of relevance during an outbreak of Rabies.

District/Borough and Unitary councils will have details of a range of licensed animal establishments operating within their area, including pet shops, dog breeding and boarding establishments, riding establishments and zoos. There are also a number of national associations that represent breeders and keepers of animals that are susceptible to Rabies. It is recommended that local authorities make contact with any local branches of the main associations.

If Rabies is found to be circulating in wildlife or livestock, local authorities should ensure that relevant local representative bodies are proactively identified. Key areas that should be reviewed include smallholder and gamekeeper associations. Contact details can frequently be located on the internet. Representatives from these associations may have knowledge of other relevant local clubs. Local authorities should also regularly review the 'Fur and Feather' press for wider awareness.

Animal welfare organisations with an inspectorate, animal collection function or kennelling facilities, may be able to provide support (e.g. dog catching equipment, disseminating message to the public) in the event of a Rabies outbreak. It may also be necessary to coordinate work with such organisations in the event of an incident/outbreak to ensure that they are not taking in or picking up animals in the area under investigation. Local authorities may wish to consult with such organisations when drafting their contingency plan.

There may be wildlife sanctuary and rescue services within the area that should remain vigilant to possibility of Rabies within the wildlife population. Local authorities may wish to include details of local animal sanctuaries in their contingency plan.

In the event of the outbreak, local vets will need to remain vigilant to the possibility of Rabies in animals they see. Vets can also help communicate advice to the general public, and may be able to offer support. Although Defra will lead on central communications with the professional veterinary bodies, it is recommended that local authorities consider how they will communicate with vets at a local level.

Some associations that may have local branches include:

RSPCA

www.rspca.org.uk

The RSPCA operates an animal welfare inspectorate, animal collection teams, animal centres, clinics, rehoming facilities and wildlife centres across the country. Local authorities may already be in contact with their RSPCA Chief Inspector or Regional Superintendent.

Blue Cross

www.bluecross.org.uk

The Blue Cross operates a number of veterinary hospitals, mobile clinics, animal ambulance services, equine centres and rehoming facilities across the UK.

Dogs Trust

www.dogstrust.org.uk

The Dogs Trust runs 17 dog rehoming centres around the UK.

Cats Protection

www.cats.org.uk

Cats Protection operates cat adoption centres in England, Wales and Scotland. Cats Protection also works to trap and neuter feral cats.

Local Registered Animal Boarding Establishments

Canine Country Retreat Ltd

White Rails, Whiterails Road, Wootton Bridge, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 4RN

DJ's Animal Boarding

Evergreen, Longlands Lane, Newchurch, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 0NA

Firwood Catotel

Firwood, Forest Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5QJ

Grange Kennels & Cattery

Watergate Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 1YP

Gurnard Hilton Cattery

25 Hilton Road, Cowes, Isle of Wight, PO31 8JB

Mill Cottage Kennels & Cattery

Mill Cottage, Bagwich Lane, Godshell, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 3JY

Reynards Boarding Kennels & Cattery

Palmers Road, Wootton Bridge, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 4NF

Sandford Cattery

Pound Farmhouse, Shanklin Road, Sandford, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 3AW

Springfield Cattery

41 Lushington Hill, Wootton Bridge, Isle of Wight, PO33 4NT

Sunningdale Farm Kennels & Cattery

Cranmore Avenue, Cranmore, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, PO41 0XR

West View Boarding Kennels

West View, Bleakdown, Godshell, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 3LA

Zoos

Amazon World

Watery Lane, Newchurch, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 0LX

Butterfly World

Staplers Road, Wootton Bridge, Ryde, Isle of Wight, PO33 4RW

Flamingo Park (Seaview) Ltd

Flamingo Park, Oakhill Road, Seaview, Isle of Wight, PO34 5AP

Fort Victoria Aquarium

Fort Victoria, Westhill Lane, Norton, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, PO41 0RR

Isle of Wight Owl & Falconry Centre

Appuldurcombe Farm, Appuldurcombe Road, Wroxall, Ventnor, Isle of Wight, PO38 3EW

Isle of Wight Zoo Ltd

Yaverland Road, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8QB

Owl & Monkey Haven

Staplers Road, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2NB

7.2 Communication with general public

The cooperation and vigilance of the general public will be essential to ensuring the disease is contained and eliminated.

Local authorities should work in partnership with other agencies (including Defra, Animal Health, the Health Protection Agency and police) to ensure a consistent message is presented.

Local authorities must remain aware that there will be immediate and extensive interest in suspect or confirmed cases of Rabies. This interest will likely focus on the implications for human health, although there will be considerable concern about the health and welfare of pets, livestock and wildlife. It is essential that local authorities provide accurate information at all times and aim to prevent widespread panic. The key focus for the local authority will be its residents. The Health Protection Agency/ Department of Health and local Health Protection Unit will lead on issues relating to human health.

The focus on communication will be particularly apparent at the outset of disease suspicion and any escalation in the disease situation. The control measures that may be implemented in the event of a widespread Rabies outbreak will also generate high levels of public interest, e.g. compulsory vaccination of animals, destruction of foxes, the control of dogs and cats, and seizure, detention and disposal of animals not under control. Local authorities will play an essential role in ensuring that their communities are accurately made aware of the current situation and any restrictions upon activities, without causing panic or undue concern. This role must be fulfilled through all feasible avenues, but particularly the animal health and welfare, emergency planning and communications functions.

Defra may arrange for the distribution of Rabies leaflets to every household in an Infected Area. Rabies posters may be supplied by Defra for display by the local authority and the police on public notice boards. These leaflets and posters will contain information concerning the controls in force, the location of the animal detention pounds, contact telephone numbers and details of the free destruction service. Much use will be made of the media - particularly local radio, television, newspapers and online media (e.g. Defra website) - to inform the public of the current status of the outbreak. The Defra Press Officer will be the main source of information to the media although it is inevitable that numerous enquiries will be received from the public by many other Departments and Authorities.

In liaison with other key partners (e.g. Animal Health and the HPA), the local authority may wish to establish a helpline dedicated to dealing with animals and protecting public health. This could help ensure high levels of compliance with any access restrictions or other requirements to control animals.

Interest may lessen as the contingency plan moves to final stand down and implementation of the recovery process. This will be dependent on national and local handling of the disease outbreak and the success of the disease control policies.

7.3 Advice on writing public information and advice leaflets/letters

This section contains advice on the type of information that could be included within advice leaflets or letters.

Due to the flexibility that the Secretary of State has to introduce Infected Areas and different measures within these areas, it is difficult to centrally produce template advice leaflets or letters. Local authorities will also wish to tailor the advice and information to reflect priorities in their own local area. However, it is important that the key messages given to the public are consistent across different organisations (Defra, Department of Health, etc). **The content of leaflets or letters must be agreed locally with Animal Health and medical officials (e.g. HPA) as necessary.**

When drafting information or advice, particular regard should be paid to the contents of any Declaratory Order. Information and advice leaflets could include:

- Information on any declared infected areas/places, including a link to Defra website showing the extent of the areas.
- Clinical signs of Rabies, first aid treatment, information on vaccination.
- Advice on contacting Animal Health if disease of suspected.
- Movement restrictions. This should include a link to information on the Defra website.
- Practical advice on biosecurity.
- Advice regarding contact with wild animals.
- Information about the importance of preventing animals from straying and of keeping animals under control
- Location of any place at which seized animals are detained, including details of how animals can be claimed.
- Controls on animal gatherings and gatherings of people.
- Contact details for local authority (including specifically animal health and welfare enforcement team) and Animal Health.
- Details of local authority and Defra websites and helplines.

8. Health and safety of local authority staff

Local authorities are advised to seek specific guidance from their Health and Safety advisor or medical practitioner when completing their local health and safety risk assessments.

Local authorities should proactively complete their standard health and safety risk assessment to review staff activities in relation to each notifiable animal disease and then add this to the local version of the relevant contingency plan. Full guidance on the various areas to consider when completing local health and safety risk assessment templates is available within the LACORS Generic Plan.

Specific information on the health and safety risks associated with Rabies has been included within this Annex due to the high level of concern in this area.

Further information relating to health and safety risks can also be found on the following websites:

Health Protection Agency:

http://www.hpa.org.uk/infections/topics_az/rabies/menu.htm

Department of Health - Memorandum on Rabies: Prevention and Control

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4080657.pdf

8.1 Health risks

Information about Rabies infections worldwide is available on the World Health Organisation website (<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs099/en/>), along with guidance on prophylaxis and post-exposure treatment in humans (<http://www.who.int/rabies/PEProphylaxisguideline.pdf>). Advice on Rabies, including pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis is also available on the Rabies page of the HPA website (<http://www.hpa.org.uk>) and in the Department of Health's Green Book on Immunisation against Infectious Diseases (http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_079917)

Some general information on transmission and clinical signs is contained in *Section 2 – Epidemiology*.

8.2 Symptoms in humans

Once clinical signs of Rabies appear the disease is nearly always fatal. It is very difficult to differentiate Rabies in humans from other diseases by clinical examination. Symptoms can include: anxiety, headaches, loss of appetite, fever and discomfort around the site of bite; followed by confusion, agitation, delirium, abnormal behaviour, hallucinations, insomnia, hydrophobia, dilated pupils, sensitivity to sound, light and temperature; then acute anxiety and mental distress, paralysis of the facial nerves, heart and lung failure, complete paralysis and coma. Death follows in almost all cases, usually about a week after the severe symptoms develop. The incubation period varies with the distance of the wound from the head, but is often around two months.

8.3 Prevention, first aid and medical intervention

Local authorities should seek specific medical advice on the measures that can be taken where staff are at risk from exposure to Rabies, including pre-exposure prophylaxis. The position should be reviewed regularly in the event of a disease situation. Specific health and safety instructions for staff engaged in the catching team and at the animal pound are contained in *Appendix H – Requirements for Animal Catching Team and Animal Detention Pounds*.

Local authority staff in contact with animals (e.g. collection teams) should treat them as though they are infected with the disease. Staff should only handle animals where the appropriate level of vaccination has been achieved and the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment is used.

Any animals which show signs of having Rabies must not be approached. The attendance of Animal Health should be sought. As a last resort, a police marksman may be used to destroy an animal.

Anyone bitten scratched or licked on mucous membranes or broken skin by an animal that has, or may have, Rabies should immediately follow the first aid precautions set out in *Appendix B – Rabies: First Aid Advice*.

Local authority staff that have been exposed to Rabies must seek medical advice immediately and any such incidents should be reported to the Head of Service.

In the event of a confirmed or suspect case of Rabies, the Health Protection Agency will organise any administration of post-exposure prophylaxis to those exposed to the Rabies virus.

9. Additional information sources

There is a range of information available to local authorities and the general public in relation to Rabies.

It is essential that local authorities maintain an awareness of the information issued by central government at all times, but particularly during a disease situation. LACORS will also maintain up-to-date information specifically for local authorities.

LACORS information - general

LACORS guidance for local authorities on road and access signs in a disease situation.

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15694&docType=C>

LACORS guidance on secondment of officers to support other local authorities, including information on authorisations

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=14916&docType=C>

Defra biosecurity guidance for visitors to premises with poultry or farmed animals

<http://www.lacors.gov.uk/lacors/ViewDocument.aspx?docID=15594 &docType=C>

Rabies information

Defra - Rabies general

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/rabies/index.htm>

Health Protection Agency – Rabies information

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1191942176094?p=1191942176094>

Department of Health – Memorandum on Rabies

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4080657.pdf

World Health Organisation Rabies bulletin

<http://www.who-rabies-bulletin.org/default.aspx>

Other specific information

Defra – Guidance on cleansing and disinfection of animal transport

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/control/biosecurity/candd.htm>

Defra – Approved disinfectants

http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/control/testing_disinfectants.htm

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Rabies Incident Form

ANIMAL HEALTH ACT 1981

To be used as a check list for information required and completed as soon as possible. Make clear and legible notes.

Information received by (officer name)			
Date		Time	
Information received from (details of informant)			
Name			
Address			
Telephone number			
Location or general locality of animal(s)			
Species and quantities of animals kept on suspect premises			
Name of owner/person in charge of animal			
Address			
Telephone number			
Kind/description of animal			
Disease signs			
Country of origin			

Method of entry into country (illegally imported)	
Contact animal/humans	
Have any contact been attacked/bitten/scratched	Yes / No (Give details if YES)
Is the animal a Rabies suspect or an illegal import or both – please state	
How long has the animal been at large	
If animal is at large, were other animals spotted in the vicinity?	
Have animals been moved on/off the premises today?	
Whereabouts of any person or animal with which it has been in contact	
Name and address of vet (if appropriate)	
Names and address of the occupiers of any other premises at which the animal has been kept	

Have Defra/ Animal Health or any other government body been informed?	Yes / No (Give details if YES)
Have police been informed?	Yes / No (Give details if YES)
Additional information – other relevant details	

Advice on care of animal until inspector can attend

- If the animal is detained keep all people and other animals away.
- If not detained try to keep under observation. Do not approach especially if it appears to be frightened or is not behaving naturally

Rabies: First Aid advice*

Action to be taken in the event of a biting or scratching incident

- Wash wound immediately with soap or detergent. If these are not available use water alone under a running tap for at least 5 minutes.
- Flush soap and water into the wound. Clean thoroughly but **do not scrub** as this is not advisable and may cause further damage to the wound and possibly increases the risk of introduction of the virus to the nerves.
- Where soap has been used to clean wounds, all traces of it should be removed before application of any solutions or antiseptics because soap may neutralise the activity of such compounds.
- The cleansed wound should be treated with an antiseptic. The most effective virucidal agents are 40 - 70% alcohol, Povidone Iodine and 0.01% Aqueous Iodine. A household antiseptic such as TCP may also be used. In an emergency some alcoholic drinks, such as whisky and gin, could be used.
- *Do not apply unfamiliar substances to wounds as these could destroy the body's immune response*
- Cover with a simple dressing.
- Grazes, scratches and pre-existing wounds which might have been contaminated by an animal's saliva should be treated in the same way.

Having applied this first aid, immediate professional medical advice should be sought – FAST. Go to the nearest doctor or major A&E hospital. The victim may need a Rabies vaccination and the course of injections must be started as soon as possible.

If at all possible, the animal involved in the incident should be kept confined until examined by an Animal Health. Where this is not feasible, attempts should be made to keep track of the animal's movements and the public made aware of the potential hazard. On no account should action be taken which might result in further biting or scratching incidents. If the Local Disease Control Centre is operational then notification of the incident should be made.

Inform the Animal Health Divisional Officer immediately, who will inform and liaise with the Medical Officer.

The above advice is based upon the Memorandum on Rabies – prevention and control (Department of Health, 2000). See DOH web site:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_4080657.pdf

*Please note that this first aid information is just for advice purposes and official medical guidance should always be sought.

SCHEDULE 2

Declaration of Infected Place and associated rules - example

THE ANIMAL HEALTH ACT 1981

THE RABIES (CONTROL) ORDER 1974 (ARTICLE 5)

Notice Declaring and Defining the Limits of an Infected Place

TO _____

OF _____

I, the undersigned, being an Inspector of the Local Authority of, HEREBY give you as the occupier of the under mentioned premises notice that in accordance with the provisions of the above mentioned order the under mentioned premises are hereby declared to be an infected place for the purpose of the said order, and that the premises, and any person from time to time thereat, accordingly become subject to the Rules specified in this notice which are printed overleaf. Any person infringing these Rules is liable to prosecution.

This notice remains in force in its present form until it is cancelled or varied by a subsequent notice served by an Inspector of the Ministry on the occupier of the infected place.

NOTE - A notice declaring an infected place may be served under Article 5 of the Rabies (Control) Order in respect of any premises at which there is an animal affected with or suspected of being affected with Rabies, or at which such animals has died, or in respect of premises at which an inspector has reasonable grounds for suspecting that Rabies existed within the previous 56 days, or that there is an animal which has been or which may have been exposed to the infection of Rabies through contact with an affected or suspected animal.

Description of Infected Place

Dated _____ 20 _____ SIGNED _____

Official Address _____

NOTE - The Inspector is with all practicable speed to send copies of this notice to the Secretary at the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Animal Health Divisional Office, to the Local Authority, to the Divisional Veterinary Manager and to the Police Officer in charge of the nearest Police Station in the district in which the infected place is situated.

Rules Relating to Infected Places

Any premises declared to be an infected place by a Notice served under Article 5, and any person from time to time thereat, shall be subject to the following rules, namely:

RULE 1

Any animal in the infected place which is affected with or suspected of being affected with Rabies, or any animal therein which has been in contact with an animal so affected or suspected, shall be detained and isolated in a part of the infected place approved for the purpose by an Inspector.

RULE 2

No person shall have access to an animal detained and isolated under **Rule 1** above, except under the Authority of a licence granted by an Inspector of the Ministry, and in accordance with the terms and conditions subject to which it was granted. This prohibition shall not apply to an Inspector, the owner of the animal or his representative, a person tending the animal or a Veterinary Surgeon employed by the owner.

RULE 3

No animal shall be moved into or out of an infected place except under the Authority of a licence granted by an Inspector of the Ministry and in accordance with the terms and conditions subject to which it was granted.

RULE 4

No carcass shall be removed from an infected place, except under the Authority of a licence granted by an Inspector of the Ministry, and in accordance with the terms and conditions subject to which it was granted and the carcass of an animal dying at the infected place shall be disposed of in a manner specified by a Veterinary Inspector.

RULE 5

Subject to the power of a Veterinary Inspector to remove and detain an animal under Article 6 (2), any animal in the infected place which is affected with or suspected of being affected with Rabies, or which has been in contact with an animal so affected or suspected, may be slaughtered by or on behalf of its owner, but only after the Notice of intended slaughter has been given to a Veterinary Inspector. Where such slaughter takes place, steps shall be taken to ensure that the head and neck of the animal are not damaged, and if required, the carcass shall be made available to a Veterinary Inspector for veterinary investigation.

RULE 6

Notice of the death of any animal in the infected place shall be given with all practicable speed to a Veterinary Inspector by the owner or other person in charge of the animal, or by the occupier of the infected place.

RULE 7

No litter, dung, utensil, pen, hurdle or other thing coming from or used in connection with, the animal affected with or suspected of being affected with Rabies or an animal which has been in contact with an animal so affected or suspected, shall be removed from the affected place, except under the Authority of a licence granted by an Inspector of the Ministry, and in accordance with the terms and conditions subject to which it was granted.

RULE 8

Every part of an infected place where an animal affected with or suspected of being affected with Rabies or an animal which has been in contact with an animal so affected or suspected has been, shall be disinfected by the occupier of the infected place in a manner approved by a Defra Inspector.

RULE 9

The occupier shall ensure that Notices in a form approved by an Inspector are prominently displayed at the infected place, indicating that it has been declared so to be and drawing attention to the existence or possible existence of Rabies threat. Where the occupier of an infected place fails to comply with the requirements of Rule 8 and Rule 9 above it shall be lawful for the Local Authority to enter the infected place and to carry out or cause to be carried out the necessary disinfection, or to erect or cause to be erected the Requisite Notices; and without prejudice to any proceedings arising out of the default the reasonable expenses of the Local Authority incurred in making good the default shall be recoverable on demand as a civil debt from the occupier of the infected place.

CONDITIONS

(In these conditions, "The Minister" means in relation to England, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs).

1. Immediately on service of this Notice, the animal(s) to which it relates shall be isolated, and shall not be permitted to come into contact with any other animal other than an animal with which it was/they were landed in Great Britain. Any movement of the animal(s) from the place of isolation (whether to quarantine premises, a vessel or aircraft for exportation or otherwise) shall only be undertaken by a carrying agent authorised by the Minister, and shall be effected strictly in accordance with the conditions subject to which that agent's authorisation was given.
2. All costs arising in connection with the detention, vaccination or carriage of an animal to which this notice relates, or otherwise arising in relation to such animal by virtue of this notice, shall be payable by the person on whom this notice is served, or by the owner of the animal.

CONDITIONS APPLYING IN RESPECT OF ANIMALS DIRECTED INTO QUARANTINE

3. Any dog or cat to which this notice relates shall, as soon as practicable after having arrived at the authorised quarantine premises, be vaccinated by the veterinary superintendent in charge of those premises with an anti-Rabies vaccine approved by the Minister, and shall be similarly vaccinated a second time 4 weeks later.
4. Where an animal to which this notice relates is, during the period of its detention at authorised quarantine premises, in contact with an animal which is affected with Rabies, the Minister may require the animal to which this notice relates to be slaughtered. Alternatively the animal may be required to be detained in quarantine for such further period as the Minister may direct.
5. If an animal to which this notice relates dies during the period of its detention in quarantine, the Minister may, or require to be taken, such steps as he considered to be necessary in order to establish whether or not the animal was affected with Rabies at the time of its death, and may dispose of the remains of the animal, or require them to be disposed of, in such manner as he may think fit.
6. An animal to which this notice relates shall not, during the period of its detention in quarantine be:-
 - a. Subjected to artificial insemination, or
 - b. used in connection with the artificial insemination of another animal.
7. Should an animal to which this notice relates give birth to young during the period of its detention in quarantine, the person in charge of the animal shall forthwith report the fact either to the **Secretary, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Taunton** as appropriate.
8. If at any time after service of this notice it becomes, in the opinion of the Minister, impracticable or undesirable for an animal to which the notice relates to, be detained at the quarantine premises specified in this notice, he may require that animal to be detained at such other quarantine premises as he may direct.

IMPORTANT

The breach of any provision of this notice, or of any condition subject to which it is issued, or the failure, to comply with any such provision or condition, is an offence against the Diseases of Animals Act 1950, and may result in criminal proceedings being instituted against the person concerned and to a fine and/or imprisonment.

NOTE

The inspector issuing this notice must send copies with all practicable speed to the Secretary, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, Animal Health Divisional Office, to the local Divisional Veterinary Manager and to the Local Authority. Where the notice requires detention in quarantine copies should also be sent to the Police Officer in charge of the Police Station nearest the authorised quarantine premises and to the Veterinary Superintendent in charge of those premises. Where the notice requires exportation, a copy should be sent to the Principal Officer of HM Customs and Excise at the port/airport from which the animal is to be expected.

List of Equipment and Supplies Available on Isle of Wight Community Services Dog Warden Service

5 staff
3 adapted vehicles with internal cage doors
1 vehicle without internal cage doors
4 Gauntlets
1 full attack suit
3 small dog carriers
6 kennels
4 grasping poles
3 muzzles (in each vehicle)
Various leads and chains
5 chip readers

Trading Standards Service

6 steel animal cages
5 small cat carriers
Pole and loop dog catcher

Local Pet Supplies

Pets at Home Ltd
Unit C, Riverway, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5UZ

Jollye's
13-14 Hurstlake Road, Riverway, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5UU

List of Equipment and Supplies

The amount of equipment that is kept in stock will depend on the size of individual local authorities together with storage capacity. Consideration should also be given to likely maintenance requirements.

Local authorities are encouraged to ensure that sufficient equipment is maintained in order deal with the early days of an outbreak together with any reports of illegal landings. Local authorities are encouraged to create and maintain an inventory of all relevant equipment that is held by neighbouring local authorities for sharing should the need arise (see Template Equipment Inventory form below).

When new office vans are being procured it is sensible for them to be specified with a solid bulkhead (between the load carrying and drivers areas) with the load carrying area lined with tying points and provision of additional ventilation. This would enable such vehicles to be put into immediate service should the need ever arise.

The following provides an example of the minimum levels of equipment that should be maintained:

1. Office van (suitably modified – see above)
2. Personal Protective Equipment – goggles or visor, reinforced leather gloves, reinforced forearm protection, reinforced chest and leg protection, steel toe-capped boots (enough equipment to provide at least one set)
3. Dog catching pole
4. Cat net and/or cat catcher, cat trap
5. Animal cages with external handles* of sufficient sizes to accommodate all sizes of animals
6. Dog muzzles (of various sizes)
7. Dog collars (of various sizes)

8. Dog leashes/chains (capable of being attached to securing loop)
9. Disinfectant from Defra approved disinfectants list
10. Animal feed and tin opener
11. Feeding/watering bowls (some of which are capable of being put inside of a cat cage).
12. Bedding, Brush, Shovel, Waste sacks, Dustbins
13. Chip reader
14. First aid kit

* Note for the purposes of Rabies legislation cardboard pet carriers should not be used.

Equipment inventory form template

	AUTHORITY NAME #1		AUTHORITY NAME #2		AUTHORITY NAME #3		AUTHORITY NAME #4	
Lead contact:								
Address:								
Tel:								
EQUIPMENT	No.	Location / contact*	No.	Location / contact*	No.	Location / contact*	No.	Location / contact*
Protective equipment								
Full protective suit								
Googles / visor								
Leather gloves								
Forearm protection								
Chest protection								
Leg protection								
Steel toe-capped boots								
Catching / pound equipment								
Dog catching pole								
Cat net								
Cat catcher								
Cat trap								
Carriers / transportation cages								
Muzzle								
Carcase bags								
Rodent carrying baskets								
Cages (stipulate size)								
Leashes/ chains								
Collars (stipulate size)								
Muzzles (stipulate size)								
Feeding / watering bowls								
Chip reader								
First aid kit								
Vehicles								
Converted van								

* Insert location / contact details for equipment if these details are different from main contact / address details listed above.

Outline job description - Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Officer

This job description supplements the one which appears in the LACORS Generic Contingency Plan.

Key responsibilities (Rabies)	
1.	<p>Enforcement of animal health and welfare legislation</p> <p>This specifically relates to the enforcement of The Rabies (Control) Order 1974, though local authority animal health and welfare enforcement officers must always remain cognisant of all animal health and welfare legislative responsibilities.</p>
2.	<p>Enforcement of dog and cat controls</p> <p>It is the responsibility of the local authority to enforce any control measures introduced under The Rabies (Control) Order 1974. This may include the enforcement of requirements to confine dogs and cats to particular premises and wear a leash when exercised (and muzzles for dogs).</p> <p>The Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Officer will be responsible for coordinating patrols, responding to intelligence and enforcing as appropriate. Local authorities have powers to seize any animals where their owner has failed to comply, to dispose of that animal as is thought fit and investigate potential offences.</p> <p>To discourage pet owners from abandoning their animals, Defra may organise a free destruction service. It is probable that some local authority staff will be involved in the operation of such a service. Defra (Animal Health) will provide a service for disposal of carcasses. The appropriate contact numbers will be widely publicised. Where a request is made to use this service (other than where an animal has been detained at a pound) the owner must complete a disclaimer form (see <i>Appendix I</i>).</p>
3.	<p>Capture of stray and uncontrolled animals</p> <p>The local authority has responsibility for collecting stray and uncontrolled pet animals within the Infected Area (where there is no suspicion that the animal has Rabies). Where there is cause for suspicion that an animal has Rabies, the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) should be informed.</p> <p>It is the duty of catching teams to capture stray dogs and cats within the Infected Area and to transport them to the designated pound. Catching teams should include at least one officer authorised under the Animal Health Act.</p> <p>District and unitary councils have a duty under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to catch dogs that appear to be strays. Police Officers may also catch strays, but do not have a duty to do so. If any animals are too inaccessible or too ferocious to capture a police marksperson may be requested to shoot the animal. Any such request must be made first to the local authority emergency control room/ Local Disease Control Centre.</p> <p>It will be important to liaise at a local level with Animal Health to agree an approach to the capture and detention of stray animals.</p>
4.	<p>Detention of animals</p> <p>Local authorities will have to identify potential premises that can be used to detain animals that have been seized. It is recommended that this is done in advance of a disease situation (as far as is possible). If this is not possible, suitable industrial units may be available on a short-term lease basis and most local authorities will have a department that can assist with the identification and lease of appropriate premises.</p> <p>Depending on the circumstances, for security reasons and to ensure the welfare of animals, pounds may need to be manned 24 hours a day with a sufficient number of authorised staff to administer and operate the pound. It should be borne in mind that members of the public are likely to visit the pound to claim their pets.</p> <p>Animals caught will be held for three days and if not claimed in that period may be destroyed on day 4. The carcasses will be removed by the waste contractor and removed for incineration – it will be the responsibility of the officer in charge of the pound to arrange this. A job description for an Animal Detention Pound Officer is included in <i>Appendix G</i>.</p>

	<p>All animals brought into the pound will have to be documented and a contact number will be published so that members of the public may reclaim their animals.</p>
5.	<p>Enforcement of movement restrictions</p> <p>Local authorities are responsible for monitoring and enforcing any movement restrictions and controls introduced under The Rabies (Control) Order 1974, and any restrictions on animal gatherings. Depending on the disease situation, these may cover the movement of live animals, carcasses, fodder and litter. The Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Officer will be responsible for completing patrols, responding to intelligence and enforcing as appropriate.</p> <p>The approach taken to the enforcement of movement restrictions will depend considerably on the extent of the disease situation, the make up of the local area and the range of businesses/premises involved. Local authorities must work in partnership with the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) to review priorities and resource requirements.</p> <p>Animal Health and the local police force will be key partners in this area of work.</p>
6.	<p>Contribution to individual movement licensing if required</p> <p>The Rabies (Control) Order 1974 allows for movement licensing to take place for a range of specific requirements, and more general needs as the disease situation is controlled. The allocation of such licences must be based upon a veterinary decision and therefore Animal Health will take the lead in this work. However, dependent on the scale of the outbreak, it is likely that local authority officers will be required to assist Animal Health with issuing movement licences.</p> <p>In all situations local authority enforcement officers should be proactively informed of individual and more general movement licences issued by Animal Health for their area. This is essential for ensuring that enforcement activity is carried out effectively, and accurate local guidance issued.</p> <p>Local authority Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Officers should remain aware that issuing a licence is always a veterinary decision.</p>
7.	<p>Erection of warning notices</p> <p>The occupier of an Infected Place is required by Article 7 to prominently display warning notices at the premise. Should these signs not be displayed, local authority officers are permitted to enter the Infected Place to erect warning notices (at the expense of the occupier).</p> <p>The local authority and police may erect warning signs, on all roads at the boundary of the infected area or an area on which the destruction of foxes is carried out. Notices should also be erected at other boundaries of an Infected Area e.g. railway stations, ports, marinas, airports and estuaries. Any breach of warning signs will be investigated by the local authority or the police.</p> <p>LACORS has produced guidance on production and erection of signs and this is available on the LACORS website. This guidance refers specifically to Avian Influenza, but can be adapted for use in a Rabies outbreak. A link can be found within <i>Section 9 – Additional Information Sources</i>.</p>
8.	<p>Dissemination of guidance and information</p> <p>Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Officers will need to ensure that accurate guidance and information is provided to members of the community, including provision of leaflets or letters during all intelligence and enforcement work. Further information on producing advice leaflets/letters is available in <i>Section 7 – Local authority Functions and Responsibilities – COMMUNICATION</i>. However, it is important to maintain an awareness of the ongoing situation and advice issued, by using the Defra and LACORS websites.</p> <p>If an Infected Area is declared, specific information on any zones, controls, vaccination plans and detention pounds will need to be disseminated to the general public.</p>
9.	<p>Cleansing and disinfection</p>

	Local authorities are responsible for enforcing cleansing and disinfection requirements in an Infected Place.
10.	<p>Tracing of animal products</p> <p>Where a suspected or known rabid animal is found on a farm, attention will have to be given to the disposal of farm products from both suspect and contact animals. Disposal of milk and other products from suspected or affected animals must be in accordance with the terms of a licence issued by the Animal Health, and in accordance with Animal By-Product Regulations.</p> <p>Contact with animal products does not pose significant risks. It should be noted that Environmental Health will have a presence at many food premises as part of their food hygiene function.</p>
11.	<p>Contribution to vaccination plan</p> <p>Animal Health will lead on the delivery of any compulsory vaccination plan. However, dependent on the scale of the outbreak, it is likely that local authority officers may be required to assist.</p>
Key Responsibilities – ongoing general requirements	
12.	Provide representation at the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) and other working groups as required.
13.	Nominate an individual with responsibility for routinely checking LACORS and Defra website for updated information.
14.	Complete any further reasonable ad hoc activity that may be requested by either the Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Manager or Animal Health.
15.	Escalate any risk or issues to the Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement Manager. Please note this includes Health and Safety concerns.

Outline job descriptions - Detention pound staff

Please note: LACORS is clarifying with Animal Health centrally the level of veterinary support local authorities could expect to receive from Animal Health veterinary officers and Official Veterinarians in terms of veterinary involvement at detention pounds. This will include discussion of expectations around veterinary involvement in decisions to destroy and release animals, and the mechanisms for arranging, managing and funding any OV involvement.

The following are designed to provide outlines of possible job descriptions for staff working at animal detention pounds. These job descriptions are just for information and consideration and may be adapted as necessary. They are not intended to be compulsory, prescriptive or rigid.

Detention Pound Officer

1. Organise setting up, equipping and staffing of detention pounds (at locations identified and agreed by relevant local authority officer/ manager²). Check out suggested sites and evaluate the amount of work required to make them operational. Consult Detention Pound Attendant before making final decisions.
2. Liaise with other officers in control centre re supplies, equipment, etc for detention pounds. Having assessed the situation, order equipment and supplies (via relevant local authority officer with responsibilities for supplies and equipment³). When work completed, consult Detention Pound Attendant and check that the Pound can be run securely.
3. Collate information from Detention Pound Attendant and report infringements of the control order to Animal Health and Welfare Enforcement team. Check animal pound record sheet. If an animal is persistently turning up at pounds, then the owner is infringing the control provisions and should be reported, with a view to taking legal proceedings. Check that forms have been completed correctly and appropriate fees charged. Consider using forms for a "Free Destruction Service" and the "Animal(s) returned to owner"
4. Direct enquiries from the public to the appropriate detention pound(s). Owners of animals that have been collected and impounded will want to know where their pets are being kept. The Detention Pound Officer will be able to locate the animals by referring to the animal pound records and give the information to the owner.
5. Ensure adequate facilities are available for disposal of animal carcasses and waste. Strays that are not collected after three days may be destroyed, or if owners volunteer their pets for destruction, then there could be carcasses to dispose of. Some authorities have their own incinerator, although other alternatives will probably be needed and these should be agreed with Defra/ Animal Health.
6. Direct animal collection teams as required. Collate information on reports of strays and direct collection teams to clear up strays in those areas.
7. Make provisions for attendance by **veterinary officer** to visit pound site to ensure that the health and welfare requirements of the animals detained are fully met.

² Local authorities may choose to deliver this function by nominating a dedicated Operations Officer responsible for: the overall supervision of Detention Pound Officer(s), Attendant(s), Collection Teams and all other external support staff; liaison with all other agencies engaged in external operations i.e. Police, Highways and Dog Wardens, and liaison with the LDCC on the location and provision of dog pounds, road checks, signs and vehicles are adequate and that the staff are fully conversant with their duties.

³ Local authorities may choose to deliver this function by nominating a dedicated Supplies and Equipment Officer responsible for sourcing and supplying furniture, equipment and stationery.

Detention Pound Attendant

1. Set up, operate and maintain security of detention pound as instructed by Detention Pound Officer. Check that pound is secure and that the animals can be securely restrained. In open establishments, the use of eye bolts driven into the ground and chains will be secure for dogs. Cats and other small animals will have to be kept in wire cages. The wire net must be strong rabbit wire, stapled to a wooden frame. In winter weather, animals will need shelter so outside pounds will not be appropriate.
2. Identify, tag and record all animals brought into the pound. It is most important that animals can be identified and some form of tagging will be required, possibly the use of cable ties with plastic number discs may have to be used. Details of each animal should be recorded so that they can be easily located and returned to their owners. Digital cameras may be used to photograph dogs, so that owners can identify their dogs, without being exposed to other dogs.
3. Maintain adequate feeding, watering and general welfare of animals. Liaise with the relevant officer regarding the provision of pet food and water. In winter, or cold weather, make sure animals are protected from the elements. If no proper protection available, ensure they have plenty of bedding. Arrange for pound to be cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals and that muck is disposed of. Liaise with **veterinary officer** where concern for the health or welfare of any animal arises.
4. Ensure that animals are properly isolated, secured and/or confined. The pound should have been set up secure, either with ringbolts in the ground with chains, chain link fencing, or wooden frames, or inside buildings. The Detention Pound Attendant must make sure the security of the pound is maintained and any deficiencies in its construction are reported to the Detention Pound Officer.
5. Assist public in identification and return of pets and arrange collection of appropriate fee. With the use of pound records and tags, the public should be able to identify their animals. Make sure fees are collected and receipts issued. Any complaints about the conditions of the animals should be noted and if necessary **a vet** should be consulted. No animal shall be returned unless Defra/ Animal Health have agreed it is free of signs of Rabies.
6. Bring provisions of the control order to the attention of owners and report all infringements to the Detention Pound Officer. It is most important that the owners who collect their animals are told that it is the duty of an owner of a dog, or cat, to make sure it is securely confined within the premises and does not stray, or escape from them. They must be prevented from coming in contact with other animals and can only be exercised in public on a secure leash and in the case of dogs, with a muzzle. Where owners ignore the warning, or are careless, then they should be reported to the Detention Pound Officer.
7. In appropriate cases, arrange for humane destruction of animals. **Vets**, with the use of a lethal injection, will usually carry this out.
8. Arrange safe disposal of carcasses and waste from the pound. Liaise with relevant local authority officer and local waste disposal contractors or Defra, who may be able to arrange disposal at Pet Crematoria.
9. Update animal registration forms as necessary. When animals are collected by owners, or destroyed, the register will have to be amended, so that at any given time, accurate record of the population in the pounds is held.
10. Ensure that staff and public observe the appropriate safety precautions at all times. Protective gloves, etc. must be worn when handling animals and dog graspers used where appropriate. Make sure any person who is bitten, or scratched, receives the correct medical treatment.
11. Carry out all other duties as directed by the Detention Pound Officer.

Requirements for animal catching team and animal detention pounds

Stray animal catching team

The local authority has responsibility for collecting stray and uncontrolled pet animals within the Infected Area where there is no suspicion that the animal has Rabies. Where there is cause for suspicion that the animal has Rabies, Animal Health and the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC) should be informed.

Catching teams should include at least one officer authorised under the Animal Health Act. Consideration will be given to vaccination of catching team staff as a matter of urgency.

It is the duty of animal catching teams to catch stray dogs and cats within the infected area and to transport them to the designated pound. The utmost safety precautions should be observed in catching animals. If any animals are too inaccessible or too ferocious to capture a police marksperson may be requested to shoot the animal. Any such request must be made first to the Local Disease Control Centre (LDCC).

When an animal has been captured and placed in its cage it must be documented, indicating on the Animal Pound Registration Form provided in *Appendix I* and taken to the pound as soon as is possible.

Officers should make brief notes in their notebooks as to location, animal type, time and date.

The Animal Catching Team will need full access to Health and Safety Instructions and Personal Protective Equipment.

Setting up an animal detention pound

Local authorities will have to identify potential premises that can be used to detain animals that have been seized.

These premises should meet the following requirements:

- Must be located within the Infected Area
- Buildings must be covered and secure
- Vehicular access to, and parking within, the premises
- Concrete floor with drainage suitable for erection of temporary animal accommodation
- Equipped with communication facilities (telephone/fax)
- Toilet and washing facilities
- Office accommodation (possibly temporary construction).

It is recommended that local authorities identify premises that may be used in advance of a disease situation. If this is not possible, suitable industrial units may be available on a short-term lease basis and most local authorities will have a department that can assist with the identification and lease of appropriate premises.

Depending on the circumstances, for security reasons and to ensure the welfare of animals, pounds may need to be manned 24 hours a day with a sufficient number of authorised staff to administer and operate the pound. It should be borne in mind that members of the public are likely to visit the pound to claim their pets (although should not be permitted access to the animal accommodation area).

In the event that an Infected Area is put into place for a longer period then it is essential that other permanent structures can be identified. Buildings such as warehousing, etc will need to be located within the Infected Area. To determine suitability the following factors should be taken into account:

- Located away from residential areas.
- Internally secure with a secure outer perimeter.
- Properly roofed.
- Have water supplies, heating and lighting.
- The ability to have rings affixed to walls.
- Smooth floors and walls with internal drainage to enable proper cleansing and disinfection.

- Ability to fix benches on which to stand cat cages.
- Adequate office space and facilities for staff, including provision for telephones and ICT.
- Adequate storage for supplies and materials.
- Adequate parking and loading/unloading facilities.
- Proximity to Control Centre.
- CCTV or the capability of installing a monitoring system
- Separate area for viewing of animals by members of the public, preferably off-site via a monitoring system

Housing of animals in detention

Dogs will need to be securely tethered using leashes/chains that allow them to stand and lie but prevent contact with other detained animals. Cats will need housing in cages that allow feeding and watering without opening the doors.

Rules of conduct at an animal pound⁴

The following rules will apply in an animal pound:-

1. Animals caught will be held for three days (day of capture counting as day 1) and if not claimed in that period may be destroyed on day 4. The **veterinary officer** will visit the pound to destroy the animals. The carcasses will be removed by the waste contractor and removed for incineration.
2. All animals brought into the pound will be documented on the Registration Form (refer to *Appendix I*) and a digital photograph taken. The person catching the animal will complete the first part of the form.
3. The following should each retain a copy of the Registration Form:-
 - The officer in charge of the pound.
 - The owner/person in charge of the animal (copy to be given when claiming the animal).
4. Each animal will be fed and watered on its arrival at the pound and thereafter at appropriate intervals to the type or breed of animal. The **veterinary officer** will visit the pound on a daily basis to check the health of the animals. Any injured animal, or animal which shows signs of illness, will be brought to his/her attention and the findings transmitted to the Local Disease Control Centre. **If it is necessary to remove animals from the pound for veterinary treatment, it should be done only with the approval of Animal Health.**
5. No animal will be released from confinement to the custody of a person other than the owner of the animal, or person having control of the animal, **without the authorisation of the veterinary officer.**
6. Any animal, which escapes, will be recaptured as soon as possible, and the fullest report, in writing, will be sent to the Head of Trading Standards/Environmental Health.
7. A contact number will be published so that, members of the public may reclaim their animals. Any person enquiring about an animal should be asked:
 - To describe the animal fully.
 - To identify the general location where the animal was seized or last seen.
 - The date and approximate time of loss.
8. Under no circumstances should the public be allowed into the animal pound. The documentation forms/ photographs should be examined for animals answering the description. If located, the animal should be brought to the front of the pound where identification can be confirmed or otherwise.
9. Before releasing any animal, the appropriate charge will be collected (which will be determined by the Head of Service at the time of an outbreak) for the keep of the animal.
10. The owner will complete the appropriate part of the Pound Registration Form (*Appendix I*) and be given a Notice to Animal Owners. It may be appropriate for animals to be released only if muzzled.

⁴ **LACORS is clarifying the level of veterinary support local authorities could expect to receive from Animal Health and Official Veterinarians - e.g. at detention pounds - and the mechanisms for arranging, managing and funding any OV involvement.**

11. The officer in charge shall arrange for the disposal of animal carcasses and waste from the dog pound.

Documentation

A daily log of activity in the Animal Pound will be kept and a copy sent to the Local Disease Control Centre daily. This will include:

- The number of animals taken in.
- The number of animals destroyed.
- The number of animals claimed.
- Any veterinary treatment administered.
- Any incidents including escaped animals.
- Handover instructions to the next team.
- Any other matter the officer in charge of the Pound thinks relevant.

Charges for Impounded Animals

Owners will be charged the prescribed fee for stray dogs prevailing at the time. An administrative fee similar to the prescribed fee may be charged in respect of other stray animals collected and impounded. In addition the owner of each animal impounded will be charged an accommodation fee for each day or part of a day that the animal is impounded.

Officers at the animal pound should obtain payment in full for all fees before returning any animal to its owner. Should the owner be unable or unwilling to pay, the officer should inform the owner that he/she will be invoiced for the fees payable in respect of their animal(s). In this instance, proof of identity before releasing the animal.

The officer in charge of the animal pound will be responsible for ensuring that invoices are raised for all unpaid fees. The Council's policy should be borne in mind when collecting fees from low income and vulnerable groups.

Services for animal pounds

- A local Vet from the **Official Veterinarian** list will need to be engaged to visit the pound to assess animals and destroy unclaimed animals.
- Waste collection will need to be arranged. It is likely that animals and waste will have to go for incineration.
- Security services may have to be engaged to prevent unauthorised access.
- Insurance should be considered.

Health and Safety instructions for staff engaged in the catching team and at the animal pound.

Local authorities are advised to seek specific guidance from their Health and Safety advisor or medical practitioner when completing their local health and safety risk assessments.

Staff will only handle animals where the appropriate level of vaccination has been achieved and the appropriate Personal Protective Equipment is used as detailed in the list in *Appendix D*.

Officers staffing the pound(s) should observe the following precautions:-

- No officer shall enter the pound alone – there must always be at least one other officer present.
- Protective clothing will be worn at all times and a catcher, catch net or general net should be to hand.
- Any officer who is bitten, scratched or injured should wash the wound, douse it in alcohol and seek medical attention as soon as possible. Such incidents should be reported to the Head of Service.

Forms for detaining and releasing animals

Registration Form for Pounded Animals

To be completed by Officer catching animal:

Area		Date		No	
Officer Catching		Time			
Animal Description	Type of Animal	Dog <input type="checkbox"/>	Cat <input type="checkbox"/>	Other	_____
	Size of Animal	Large <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium <input type="checkbox"/>	Small	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Full Description, including, breed, colour or markings				

To be completed by pound staff:

Custody	Date		Time	
	Kennel Number		Photo ref	
	Details of any ID			
	Stray/Suspect/Contact			
Returned to Owner	Date		Time	
	Fee charged	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	

To be completed by owner/person in charge:

Owners Name	
Owners Full Address	
Telephone Number	
Date	

I have been shown a dog/cat, identification number _____ I identify that as being my animal or an animal which I am in charge of. I have been served with a notice that informs of my obligations under the Rabies (Control) Order 1974 and appreciate that if I fail to comply with the conditions laid down in the notice the dog/cat may be seized and further proceedings taken against me.

SIGNED _____ DATED _____

WITNESS _____ DATED _____

FOR OFFICE USE:

Animal disposal to:

Animal tattoo/ chip ref		Destroyed by		Date/Time	
----------------------------	--	--------------	--	-----------	--

REMARKS

[LOCAL AUTHORITY NAME]

DISCLAIMER FORM FOR VOLUNTARY DESTRUCTION OF ANIMAL

This form is to be completed by an owner taking advantage of the voluntary destruction service in the event of a Rabies Infected Area being declared in this County:

I,

Of
.....
.....

Being the owner of (description of animal)

Do hereby consent to the above animal being destroyed under the voluntary destruction service and in doing so freely absolve any other person or body from any responsibility in this decision.

I agree to pay the sum of £..... towards the boarding of the animal described above.

Signed

Witness

Time and Date

Animal Destroyed by

At

Time and Date

Signed
Animal Health Inspector

Frequently Asked Questions

The following information is largely from the Defra, Health Protection Agency and World Health Organisation websites.

What is Rabies?

Rabies is a viral disease which infects domestic and wild animals. It is transmitted to other animals and humans through close contact with saliva from infected animals (i.e. bites, scratches, licks on broken skin). Rabies must be prevented because once symptoms of the disease develop it is fatal to both animals and humans.

Dogs are the main risk to humans due to their high level of contact with the human population and propensity to bite. The World Health Organisation estimates that Rabies in dogs is the source of 99% of human infection. There are no documented cases of human-to-human spread, except by the artificial route of organ transplantation.

Rabies in the UK

Rabies has long been eliminated in the UK animal population and the last human case of classical Rabies acquired in the UK was more than a century ago, in 1902. Since 1946, twenty-four cases have been reported in the UK. In all cases, Rabies infection occurred abroad.

Worldwide, there are around 55,000 cases of classical rabies each year, almost entirely in developing countries. People who are travelling should consult their GP or a travel clinic about whether they need rabies vaccination for their itinerary. More advice for those travelling abroad can be found on the National Travel Health Network and Centre - <http://www.nathnac.org/pro/factsheets/rabies.htm>

Bat Rabies

Rabies affects bats as well as terrestrial mammals. A strain of rabies called European Bat Lyssavirus (EBLV 2) has been found in Daubenton's bats in the UK on eight occasions. These very rarely cross the species barrier from bats to humans, and are unlike the 'classical' rabies virus found in dogs and other animals. There have been no recorded cases in the UK of bats infecting wildlife or pet animals with Rabies. However, an unvaccinated bat handler died from a Rabies-like infection caused by a Bat Lyssavirus in Scotland in November 2002.

More information and advice on Rabies in bats is available on the Defra website:
<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/notifiable/rabies/q&a.htm>

What are the signs of Rabies in animals?

There are typically three main stages of Rabies when animals display different types of behaviour. The stages may be of variable duration so that the earlier symptoms may not be apparent and an animal may only show the terminal stages of the disease.

In the earlier stages, a common factor is that the animal undergoes a change in temperament so that a normally friendly animal may become snappy and seek to avoid its owner's company, whereas timid, shy animals become less restrained and are unnaturally approachable. This is the common feature of wild animals, making them a particular hazard to children who, while delighting in their 'friendliness', become exposed to infection. The saliva may be infective for several days before the clinical disease becomes noticeable. Some animals can die without showing any signs of infection

At about the same time as a virus appearing in the saliva the behaviour of the animal may change. Initially the animal may appear anxious, irritable or frightened. Wild animals may become unusually tame and they may approach people and enter buildings. Domestic animals may become aggressive, attacking their owners or other animals. An infected animal may appear to have lost its balance or it may fall over and have difficulty controlling its limbs. Drooling of saliva from the mouth may be seen.

An animal may show clinical signs of Rabies any time from a few days to many months after being exposed to infection (usually due to a bite). Signs of infection are usually seen within a few weeks of exposure.

Who should be protected by vaccination?

Anyone who is bitten or scratched by a warm blooded animal (such as a dog or cat) in a country where there is Rabies should get advice immediately as Rabies vaccine can be given to protect them. It works best if given as soon as possible.

Within the UK, if someone is bitten by a bat they should seek medical attention as soon as possible. They can then be advised on whether they need any preventative treatment. All bat handlers should be vaccinated preventatively against Rabies.

- People at risk through their jobs or occupations (e.g. workers in laboratories, quarantine kennels, bat handlers)
- Some people going to developing countries where Rabies is common who may be exposed through their work (e.g. working with animals) or travelling to particular areas where medical services are poor and the risk of being bitten is high
- Anyone bitten by a potentially rabid animal abroad or by a bat in the UK. They should seek vaccination as soon as possible.

Which countries are considered high/low risk for Rabies?

The following information was taken from the Rabies Country Risk Table, updated August 2009 and available from the HPA website

<http://www.hpa.org.uk/webw/HPAweb&Page&HPAwebAutoListName/Page/1191942176103?p=1191942176103>

NO RISK: Animals originating from the following countries and territories are considered to pose “no risk” of Rabies (free of terrestrial rabies)

Europe: Belgium, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Finland, France (including Corsica), Gibraltar, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy (except northern and eastern border regions), Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Lichtenstein, Denmark, Spain

Americas: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Martinique, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Turks and Caicos Islands, Virgin Islands, Bermuda

Asia: Hong Kong (China), Japan, Singapore, Taiwan

Oceania: Australia, New Zealand

LOW RISK: Animals originating from the following countries are considered to pose a “low risk” of Rabies

Europe: Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy (northern and eastern border regions only)

Americas: Canada, USA (the Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, provides information on the risk of Rabies in different parts of the USA), Grenada, Uruguay

Asia: Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, the Maldives, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait

Oceania: Sao Tome and Principe

The following countries are presumed rabies free but have little surveillance information:

American Samoa, Cook Islands, Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, New Caledonia, Niue, the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, American Samoa.

HIGH RISK: Animals originating from countries where terrestrial rabies is enzootic are considered “high risk”. Countries (and islands) not otherwise mentioned as “no risk” or “low risk” should be considered as “high risk”.