

Under the Rule 10 325.180) under the rules for 1978, Public Act 368 (Michigan Public Health Code), an animal bite must be reported to the local health department within 24 hours of the incident. In addition, the rules mandate that the case be handled pursuant to the provisions of the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control, which is published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians ([http://nasphv.org/Documents/Rabies Compendium.pdf](http://nasphv.org/Documents/Rabies%20Compendium.pdf)).

Under Section 6 of the Compendium, it states that “A healthy dog, cat, or ferret that bites a person should be confined and observed daily for 10 days; administration of rabies vaccine to the animal is not recommended during the observation period to avoid confusing signs of rabies with possible side effects of vaccine administration. Any illness in the animal should be reported immediately to the local health department. Such animal should be evaluated by a veterinarian at the first sign of illness during confinement. If signs suggestive of rabies develop, the animal should be euthanized and the head submitted for testing as described in Part I.A.8. Any stray or unwanted dog, cat, or ferret, that bites a person may be euthanized immediately and the head submitted.” Per the Michigan Department of Agriculture – Animal Industry Division - it is up to the local government as to where confinement occurs.