



Quarantine Requirements

Domestic, Wildlife and Human Contacts

The State of California has been identified by the State Health Department as a rabies endemic area. The following information and requirements are in accordance with California State Law as prescribed by the County of San Mateo Health System.

Biting Domestic Animal (Cats and Dogs)

Any domestic animal which bites a person (a bite is defined as a puncture, pierce, or scratch inflicted by an animal's mouth in which blood is drawn) shall be isolated in strict confinement and observed. Dogs and cats with current or expired rabies vaccinations are required to be quarantined for 10 DAYS from the date of the bite. Depending on the circumstances of the bite and home conditions, this quarantine will take place at the owner's home or at the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA shelter (see Figure 1).

Exposed Domestic Animal (Cats and Dogs)

A domestic animal currently vaccinated against rabies that has been exposed to wildlife will be quarantined at home for 30 DAYS from the date of exposure. A domestic animal not currently vaccinated against rabies that has been exposed to wildlife (and the wild mammal is not available for testing) will be placed into quarantine for 6 MONTHS (see Figures 2 & 3).

If your domestic animal comes into contact with a species of wildlife that can transmit rabies and the wild animal can be captured, the San Mateo County Public Health Lab will perform a fluorescent rabies antibody test to determine if the animal is rabid. Dogs/cats that are currently vaccinated should be re-vaccinated immediately by a veterinarian (within 48 hours) and placed into a strict quarantine for 30 days OR until the Public Health Lab results come back negative. [Per Title 17 of CCR Section 2606 (c) (1) (2) (3)]

As part of the HOME quarantine, the owner or possessor is to adhere to the following requirements:

- **Backyard** (dog) – if adequately fenced and with a lockable gate, dog may be loose in fenced yard. If not fenced and no dwelling is available to secure dog, it must be impounded for shelter quarantine.
- **Garage** (dog or cat) – all doors must be kept locked.
- **House** (dog or cat) – animal(s) to have contact with immediate family members only. In case of visitors, the animal(s) is/are to be confined to a separate enclosed room or secure patio.
- **No walks or rides** – animal(s) are not allowed to leave the property.
- **Sick, injured, lost, or dies** - The owner or possessor MUST notify the Department of Animal Rescue & Control immediately if the animal becomes sick, injured, lost, or dies during the quarantine period. Signs of rabies are highly variable, but usually include an obvious change in behavior. Frequently, neurological signs are seen, such as difficult walking, swallowing, muscle twitches, or seizures. 24 hour contact information is noted below.

San Mateo County Public Health will invoice you in the amount of \$50 as outlined in the Fee Schedule of your local ordinance/municipal code. This San Mateo County Animal & Licensing fee will cover the cost to file and maintain the records pertaining to the bite and/or possible exposure to a rabid animal.

DATE OF RELEASE FROM SHELTER/HOME QUARANTINE _____

In the event your animal(s) has/have been impounded for shelter quarantine, you may redeem your animal(s) on the above date. There are boarding and other fees associated with a shelter quarantine. If your pet becomes ill while in the shelter, s/he will be treated by PHS/SPCA veterinarians and applicable fees will be charged. If your pet requires extensive medical care, PHS/SPCA veterinarians may contact you about making arrangements for continued treatment at your private veterinarian. Please call 650. 340.7022 x339 for information on fees specifically related to your animal. PHS/SPCA collects these fees on behalf of San Mateo County and does not keep them. Please disregard this notice if other arrangements have been made (i.e., if your animal is being held pending an investigation). All fees must be paid prior to redemption.

SHELTER quarantines for biting animals are required in the following circumstances:

- Animal has never been vaccinated for rabies.
- Animal has a previous bite history.
- Biting animal is potentially exposed to rabies virus by a wild mammal not available for testing.
- Owner or possessor is unable to confine the animal on the property.
- There is no place to safely keep the animal confined.
- The home operates as a business and is open to the public (e.g. daycare center).
- Owner or possessor is otherwise unable to comply with home quarantine requirements.
- The animal was placed in home quarantine, but violated home quarantine requirements. Any animal that violates quarantine requirements will be impounded for shelter quarantine.
- The biting animal was a stray before coming to the shelter or being impounded.
- The case is pending further investigation for cruelty, Dangerous Animal, or Vicious Animal.
- The Health System requests that the Department of Animal Rescue & Control impound the animals for any reason.
- Owner or possessor fails to provide information regarding rabies vaccination, etc.
- Owner or possessor refuses to cooperate with the Department of Animal Rescue & Control for a home quarantine.

Any person who violates any portion of the quarantine requirements is subject to criminal prosecution by the San Mateo County District Attorney.

****Please note that visitation of sheltered quarantined animal(s) is not allowed.****

Rabies Vaccination Requirements

In San Mateo County, all dogs must be vaccinated against rabies by the age of four (4) months, followed by a rabies booster 12 months later by a licensed veterinarian. Subsequent rabies boosters need to be given per rabies vaccine manufacturer's recommendation. All cats residing in San Mateo, Belmont, Brisbane, San Bruno, Millbrae, Half Moon Bay, Hillsborough, Redwood City and the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County, must be vaccinated against rabies by the age of four (4) months by a licensed veterinarian, with subsequent rabies boosters given per rabies vaccine manufacturer's recommendation.

Proof of current rabies vaccination is required to obtain a license.

Animal Licensing Laws

If you have a dog and live anywhere in San Mateo County, you must obtain a dog license each year. Cat owners who reside in City of San Mateo, Belmont, Brisbane, Half Moon Bay, Hillsborough, Redwood City, or the unincorporated areas of the County must obtain a cat license.

Additional requirements:

- New dogs or cats must be licensed by the age of four (4) months or within sixty (60) days of acquiring the animal(s).
- New residents of the County must license their dogs or cats within sixty (60) days.
- Owners or possessors of animals in quarantine may be subject to a citation for failure to comply with licensing and/or rabies vaccination requirements.

Contact Information

Department of Animal Rescue & Control
12 Airport Blvd.
San Mateo, CA 94401-1006

Phone – 650.340.7022 or 650.340.8200
Fax – 650.685.0102
After Hours (County Dispatch) 650.363.4953

Phone Hours

M-F: 8am-6pm
S/Su/Holidays 8am-5pm

Shelter Hours

M-F 11am-7pm
S/Su 11am-6pm
Holidays Closed

FIGURE 1: QUARANTINE ALGORITHM FOR BITING DOGS OR CATS

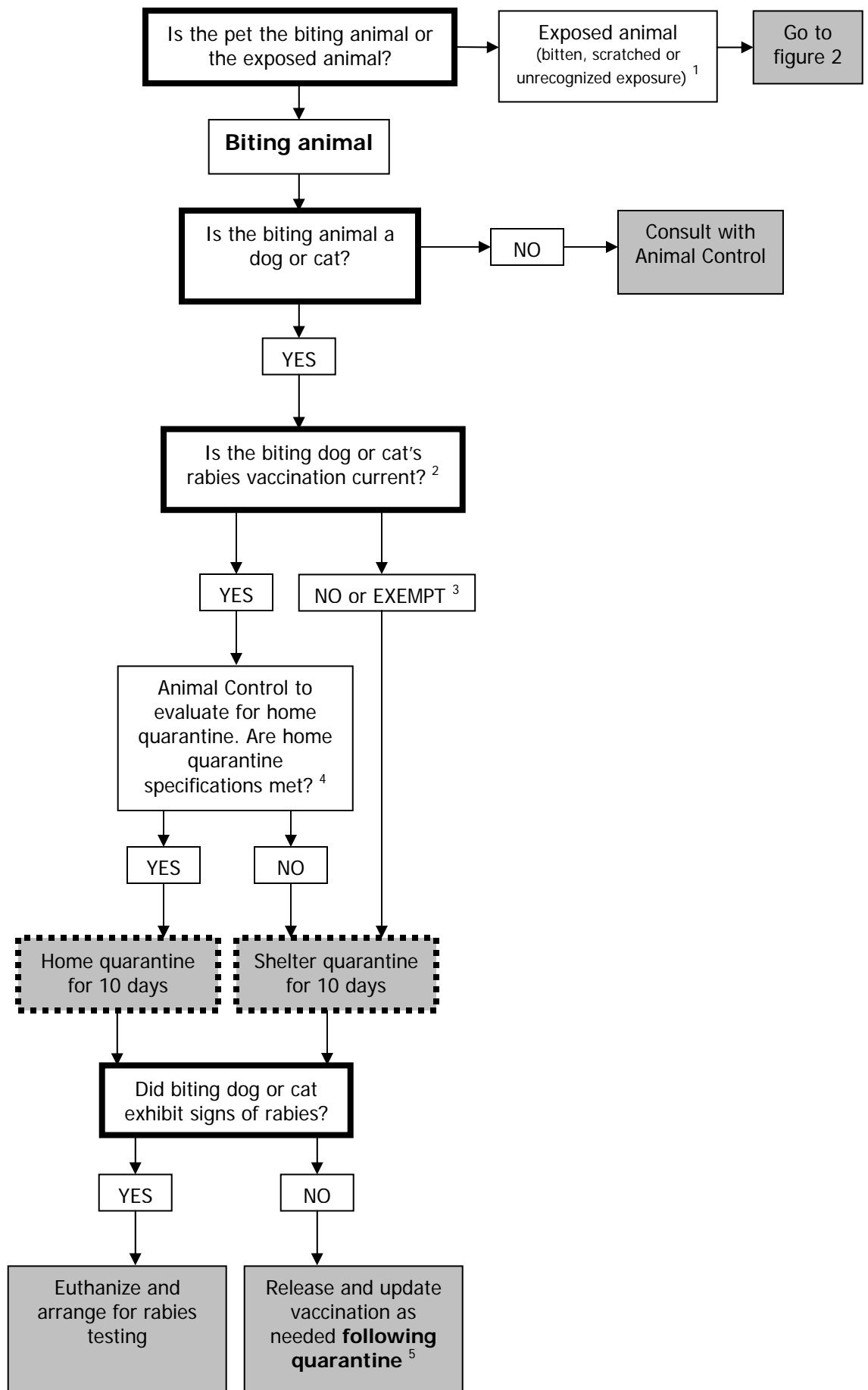


FIGURE 2: QUARANTINE ALGORITHM FOR EXPOSED DOGS OR CATS

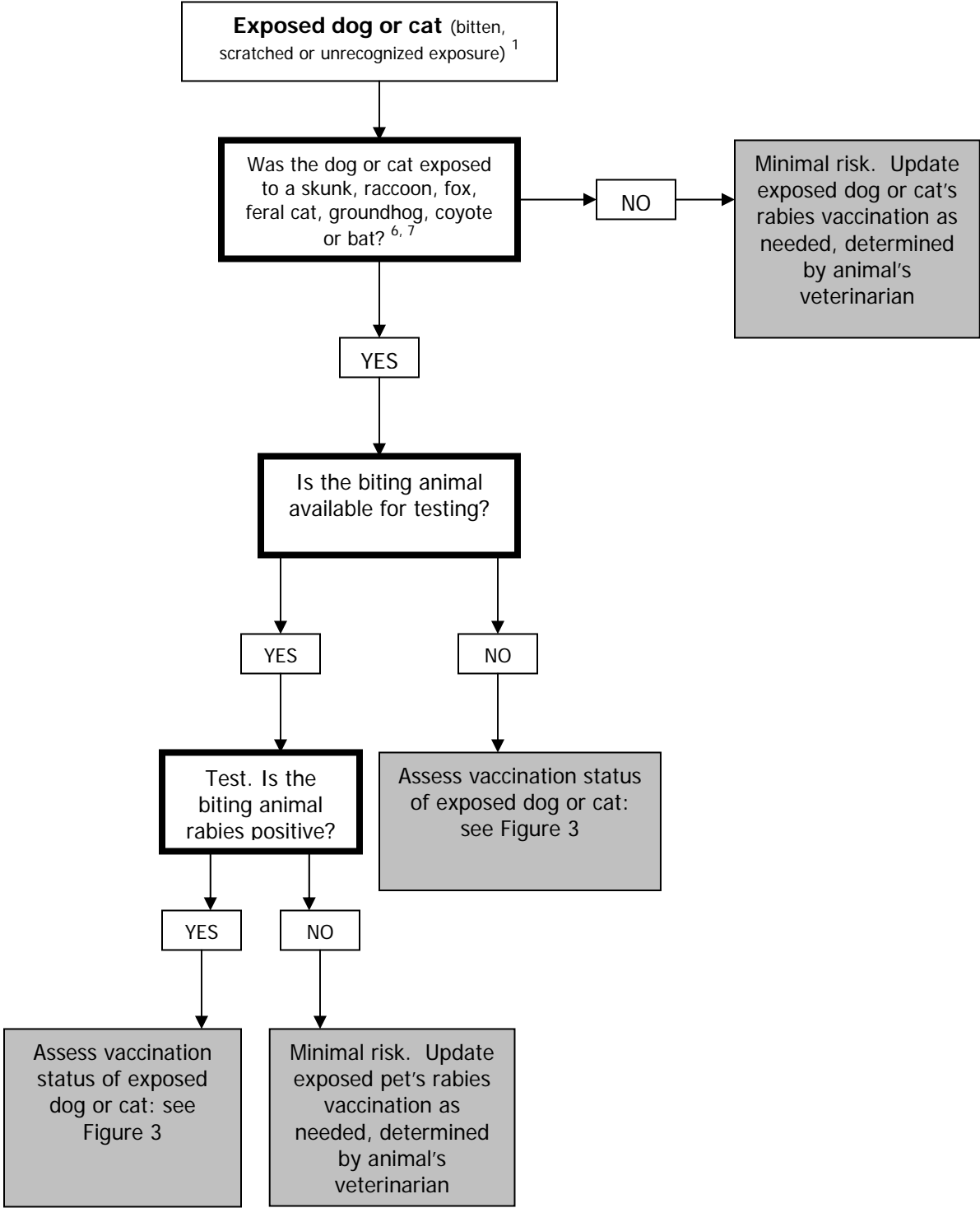
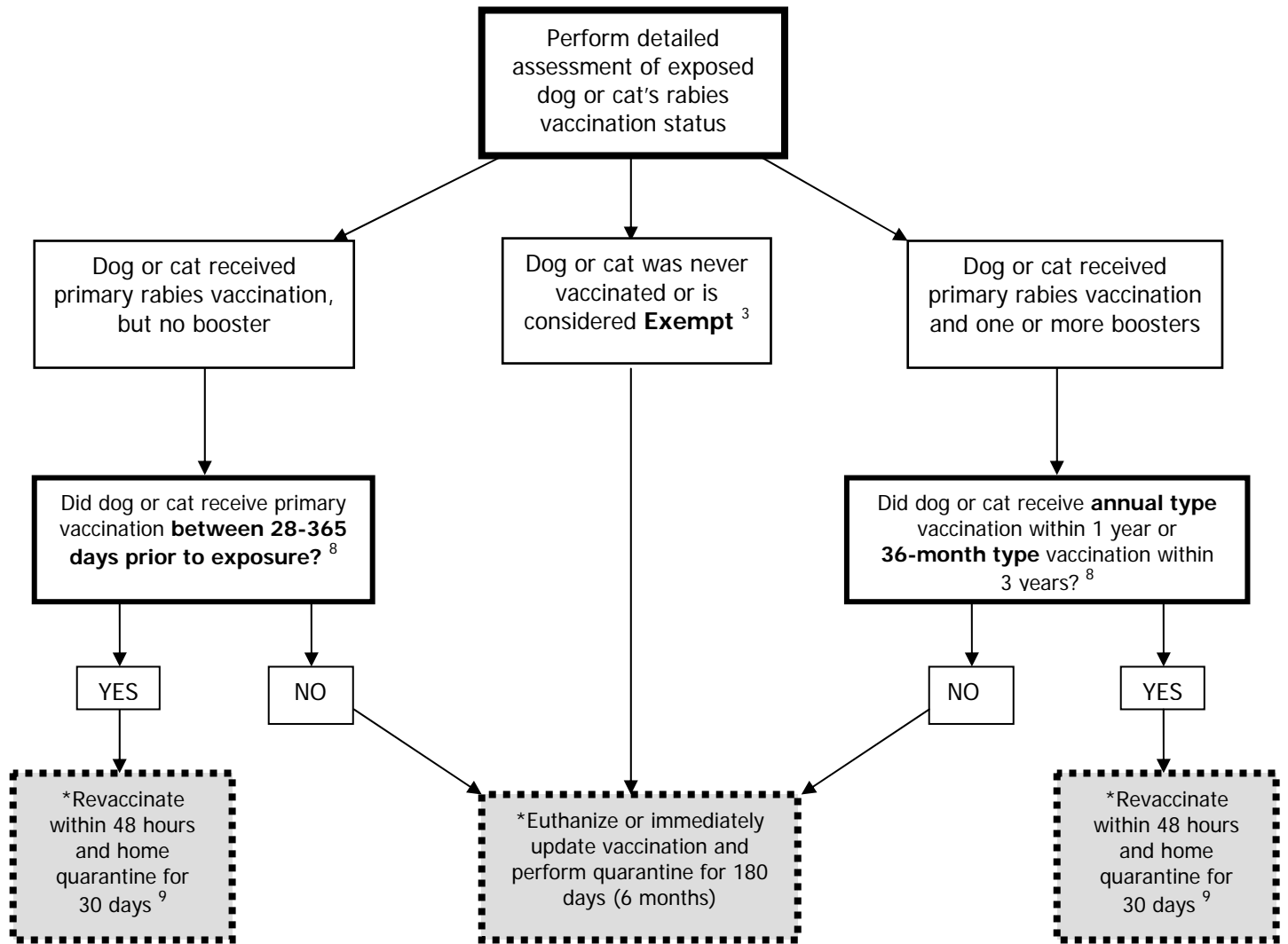


FIGURE 3: QUARANTINE ALGORITHM FOR EXPOSED DOGS OR CATS




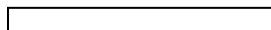


*** If animal displays signs of rabies – euthanize and test for rabies. The animal's veterinarian or a shelter veterinarian should perform any vaccination.**

NOTES

- 1** Rabies is transmitted through bite wounds, open cuts in skin, and onto mucous membranes. Contamination of open wounds, mucous membranes, or scratches with saliva or nerve tissue from an infected animal constitutes a non-bite exposure.
- 2** Current rabies vaccination per California Health & Safety Code Section 121690
- 3** Exempt animals are animals that have been granted an exemption from rabies vaccination by the County of San Mateo's Health System on advice of the animal's veterinarian. Despite current exemption status, exempt animals are considered unvaccinated per California Health & Safety Code Section 121690.
- 4** The Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA's Animal Rescue and Control determines if an animal's home qualifies for home quarantine or shelter quarantine. Contact: (650) 340-7022
- 5** Vaccination in biting animals should be performed following quarantine, as side effects secondary to vaccination (within 30 days) can mimic the symptoms of rabies.
- 6** These are wild animals at high risk for infection with rabies
- 7** Bat bites are small and may go unnoticed. If a pet is found alone with a bat, that pet should be treated as exposed. If the bat is available, Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA's Animal Rescue and Control should be contacted to retrieve the bat for testing.
- 8** Dogs and cats are considered currently vaccinated 28 days after primary vaccination, and immediately after booster vaccination.
- 9** San Mateo County guidelines are based on Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations that states exposed, vaccinated animals should be quarantined for 30 days.

Legend

	Quarantine action
	Other action
	Question
	Answer