



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Linn County Public Health
501 13th Street NW
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405-3700
Ph: (319) 892-6000 Fax: (319) 892-6099



August 23, 2017

Dear Healthcare Providers and Veterinarians,

On March 7, 2017, Linn County Public Health sent the attached letter notifying healthcare practitioners and veterinarians of their obligations to report known animal bites. With the letter, we included an update animal bite report form.

We are writing you today because Animal Control Agencies are reporting repeated errors and lack of adequate information in submitted animal bite reports. At times, outdated report forms are used and reports are filed with the wrong agency. We have made a few minor changes to the form with the hope that this may help in completing and submitting the report accurately. More importantly, we are asking you to again review this animal bite reporting information and use the attached Animal Bite Report form for all animal bite reports. Please, communicate this information to your staff. Review your reporting procedures to make sure they are current and that your staff use the attached current animal bite report form.. When completing the report, keep the following points in mind to ensure completeness and accuracy.

- The form should be completed by the medical provider or their designated agent. **The form should not be filled out by the patient or owner of the animal.**
- The report should be submitted to the animal control agency with jurisdiction based on the animal owner's address.

Animal Bite Reporting Jurisdiction

City of Cedar Rapids: CR Animal Care and Control Phone: 286-5993 Fax: 294-6629	Linn County: Cedar Valley Humane Society Phone: 362-6288 Fax: 365-8270	City of Marion: Marion Police Dept Lt. Lance Miller Phone: 200-7718 Fax: 200-4143
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If owner lives in another county in Iowa see <https://idph.iowa.gov/rabies/information-for-providers> for statewide points of contact. If no owner, use the address of where the exposure (e.g. bite) occurred.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 892-6010 or james.hodina@linncounty.org.

Sincerely,

James Hodina
Manager, Environmental Public Health

E-mail: health@linncounty.org

Pramod Dwivedi, DrPH (c)
Health Director

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www.linncleanair.org



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March 7, 2017

Dear Healthcare Providers and Veterinarians,

Healthcare practitioners and veterinarians are often the first to become aware of animal bites and therefore play a vital role in aiding with public health surveillance efforts.

As stated in Linn County Ordinance Chapter 28, it is the responsibility of physicians, healthcare practitioners, and veterinarians to report any known animal bites or skin abrasions caused by companion or wild animals to the respective animal control center. Section 28.9 of the ordinance states:

- 1. Every physician or other practitioner shall report in writing to the Health Officer the name and address of any person treated for bites inflicted by an animal with such other information as will assist in the prevention of rabies.*
- 2. Every veterinarian shall report to the Health Officer any diagnosis of rabies. Every veterinarian shall report to the Health Officer the name and address of the owner of any animals treated for bites inflicted by another animal.*
- 3. Anyone, including the owner of the animal, having knowledge of a person being bitten by or receiving a skin abrasion from an animal within Linn County shall promptly report such fact to the Health Officer.*

Linn County Public Health has recently updated the Linn County Animal Bite Record form, which is provided for your use. Please update your records with the new form. Based on input received from practitioners and animal control officials, we believe that the reporting form is more understandable and helps to provide complete information.

Pursuant to Linn County Code of Ordinance, Chapter 28, Linn County Public Health has named the Cedar Rapids Animal Control, Marion Police Department, and Cedar Valley Humane Society as "designated agents." Report animal bite exposures occurring within the Cedar Rapids and Marion city limits to their respective agents. Contact the Cedar Valley Humane Society for animal bite exposures in areas within Linn County but outside of the city limits of Cedar Rapids and Marion. Phone number and fax number for the three agencies are listed on the report form.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at 892-6010 or james.hodina@linncounty.org.

Sincerely,

James Hodina
Manager, Environmental Public Health

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