Appendix 2. Post-exposure management algorithm for potential exposure to rabies virus from a terrestrial (land-living) animal overseas, or to terrestrial mammals in Australia that are confirmed to have lyssavirus infection

Potential exposure from a terrestrial animal in a rabies-enzootic area

**Category I**
- Touching or feeding animals, licks on intact skin
- Exposure to blood, urine or faeces or to an animal that has been dead for >4 hours.

**Category II**
- Nibbling of uncovered skin, minor scratches or abrasions without bleeding

**Category III**
- Single or multiple transdermal bites or scratches
- Contamination of mucous membrane with saliva from licks
- Licks on broken skin

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No prophylaxis is required if contact history is reliable

**Non-immune, immunocompetent**

Vaccinate
- 4 doses administered IM on days 0, 3, 7 and 14. Human rabies immunoglobulin (HRIG) is not indicated.

If further exposures in the future
- Treat as previously immunised and follow algorithm as above

If ongoing occupational exposure risk – see Booster algorithm

**Previously immunised**

Vaccinate
- Both immunocompetent and immunocompromised persons – 2 doses delivered IM on days 0 and 3. HRIG is not indicated.

**Non-immune, immunocompetent**

Vaccinate and administer HRIG
- HRIG is administered only once, and as soon as possible after the initiation of PEP (HRIG is not indicated beyond the 7th day after the 1st vaccine dose day 0).
- Rabies vaccination is 4 doses administered IM on days 0, 3, 7 and 14.

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§ Immunocompromised persons, not previously vaccinated, should receive 5 doses of vaccine on days 0, 3, 7, 14 and 26. Serology should be checked 14 to 21 days post dose 5 and a further dose offered if the result is <0.5 IU/mL. In immunocompromised persons, HRIG should be administered if a Category II or III exposure.

§§ Immunocompromised persons, previously immunised, should have serological testing 14 to 21 days after the 2nd dose to confirm acceptable VNAb levels. If the results is <0.5 IU/mL, expert advice should be sought regarding the total number of doses required for PEP.

* If in doubt, treat as non-immune.

† Previously immunised – documentation of a completed recommended PreP or PEP rabies vaccine regimen.

This is irrespective of the time period since the last dose was administered. This may either be a completed primary pre-exposure course or post-exposure course and includes those where subsequent boosting has occurred, or documented rabies antibody (VNAb) titres of >0.5 IU/mL.

‡ Non-immune – person who has never received pre- or post-exposure immunisation with rabies vaccine, has had incomplete/inadequate primary vaccination course, or if any doubts about the vaccine(s) administered overseas.