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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

## Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 69 - 2020

# Animal Bite (non-Human) and Rabies

These changes apply to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines

## Animal Bite (non-Human)

Please make the following changes to the entry:

- Obligatory*    **Must not donate if:**
- a) Ever bitten by a non-human primate (monkeys and apes).
  - b) Less than 12 months since being bitten by a bat or exposed to bat saliva anywhere in the world.
  - c) Less than 12 months since being bitten by any other mammal outside of the British Isles (UK and Ireland).
  - ~~b~~ d) Any wound is infected or not healed.

*See if Relevant*    [Infection - General Rabies](#)

**For a human bite:**  
[Non-Consented Exposure to Human Body Fluids](#)

*Additional Information*    Animal bites may result in many different infections. Allowing all wounds to heal and for any obvious infection to have resolved should avoid problems.

There is a concern that bites from non-human primates, because of close genetic links, may transmit diseases that could cause illness in people. It is known that some diseases have been transmitted by this route. For this reason any person who has ever been bitten by a non-human primate is not allowed to donate. [Non-human primates include chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans, monkeys \(old and new world\), tarsiers, lemurs and lorises.](#)

[Anyone who has been in unusual contact with a bat, such as handling a sick or injured bat, should be considered at risk of rabies. Bat bites are usually insignificant and easily overlooked. Merely being in a place where bats roost is not considered a risk.](#)

### Continued

Rabies, and similar diseases, have long incubation periods and do not show as a wound infection. There is no evidence that these infections have ever been transmitted through a blood transfusion. These diseases appear to be confined to the nervous system during their incubation periods. There is evidence that they have been transmitted through organ, tissue and ocular transplants. ~~For this reason there are different rules for material that may contain nervous system tissue.~~

*Reason for Change* ~~There have been minor changes to make it clear that the reference is to non-human animals and to introduce guidance concerning bites from non-human primates.~~

To introduce a 12 month deferral period after a bat bite or exposure to bat saliva and after a bite by any other mammal outside the British Isles.  
To give more information on the definition of a non-human primate.

## Rabies

Please make the following changes to the entry:

### 2. Immunization – Post Exposure

*Obligatory* **Must not donate until:**  
At least 12 months post exposure and fully cleared by the treating physician.

*See if Relevant* [Immunoglobulin Therapy](#)  
[Animal Bite \(Non-Human\)](#)

*Additional Information* It is essential that any rabies virus has been eliminated from the system before a donation is accepted. Waiting at least 12 months post exposure and until the individual is fully cleared by the treating physician should make sure that the virus has been cleared.

*Information* This entry is compliant with the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.

*Reason for Change* ~~The link under 'See if Relevant' has been changed and 'Additional Information' has been added.~~  
A link has been added to 'Animal Bite (Non-Human)'.

**Index Entries:** Add the 'Snake Bite' entry to the results returned for the search term 'bite'

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