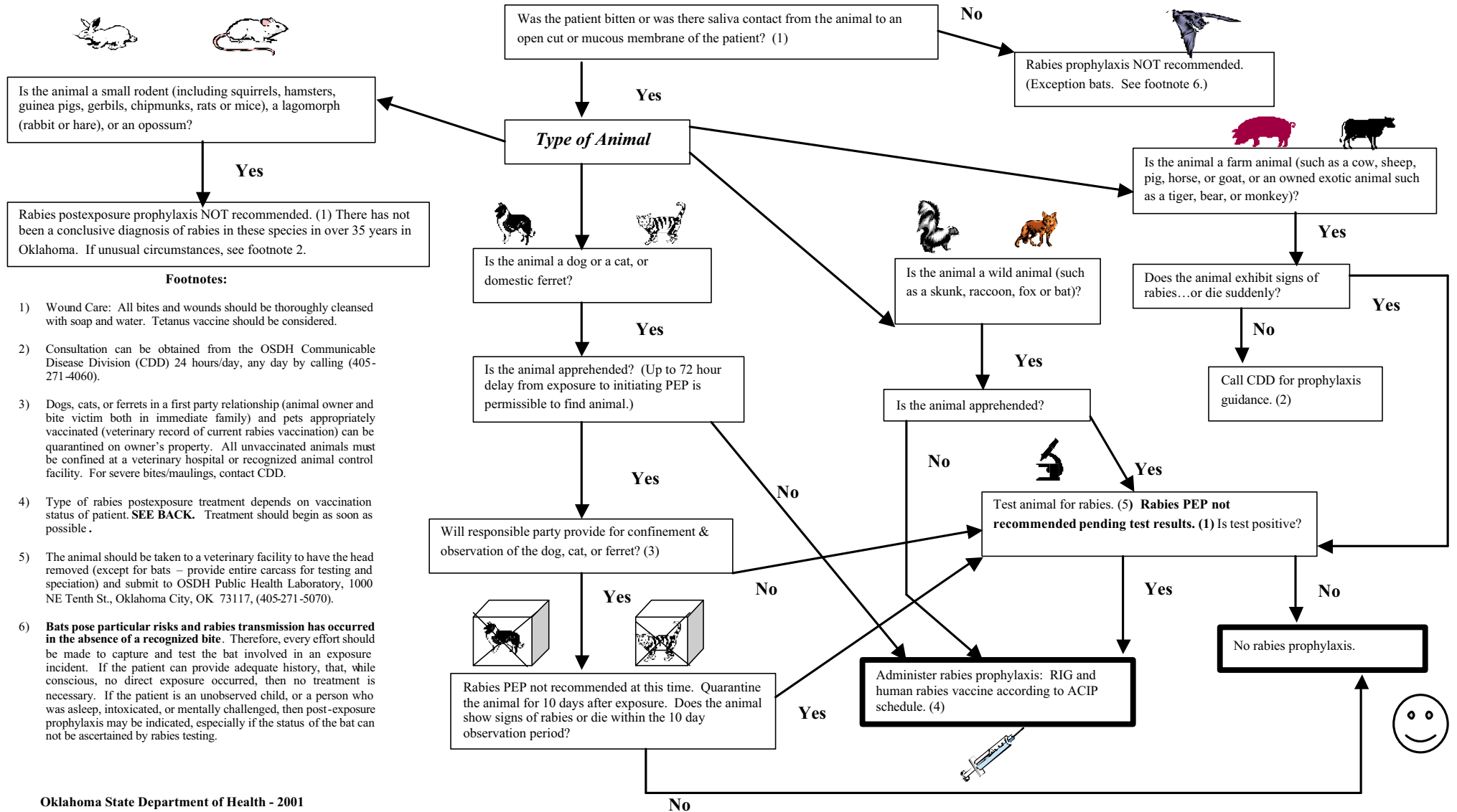


Figure 4.

RABIES EXPOSURE ASSESSMENT ALGORITHM



Footnotes:

- 1) Wound Care: All bites and wounds should be thoroughly cleansed with soap and water. Tetanus vaccine should be considered.
- 2) Consultation can be obtained from the OSDH Communicable Disease Division (CDD) 24 hours/day, any day by calling (405-271-4060).
- 3) Dogs, cats, or ferrets in a first party relationship (animal owner and bite victim both in immediate family) and pets appropriately vaccinated (veterinary record of current rabies vaccination) can be quarantined on owner's property. All unvaccinated animals must be confined at a veterinary hospital or recognized animal control facility. For severe bites/maulings, contact CDD.
- 4) Type of rabies postexposure treatment depends on vaccination status of patient. **SEE BACK.** Treatment should begin as soon as possible.
- 5) The animal should be taken to a veterinary facility to have the head removed (except for bats – provide entire carcass for testing and speciation) and submit to OSDH Public Health Laboratory, 1000 NE Tenth St., Oklahoma City, OK 73117, (405-271-5070).
- 6) **Bats pose particular risks and rabies transmission has occurred in the absence of a recognized bite.** Therefore, every effort should be made to capture and test the bat involved in an exposure incident. If the patient can provide adequate history, that, while conscious, no direct exposure occurred, then no treatment is necessary. If the patient is an unobserved child, or a person who was asleep, intoxicated, or mentally challenged, then post-exposure prophylaxis may be indicated, especially if the status of the bat can not be ascertained by rabies testing.