

What's The Issue?

WCHD investigates cases of potential human rabies exposure in Winnebago County. As a result of the investigations, inadequate treatment of rabies post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) has been identified.

Why It's Important

The inadequate treatment of rabies PEP can provide several challenges to an individual/family and the community:

- Financial burden of the cost of PEP
- Delay in the administration of PEP
- Opportunity to streamline communication channels involving Rabies reporting with WCAS, hospital emergency departments, residents and WCHD

Team Members

Winnebago County Animal Control: Brett Frazier, Jennifer Stacey, Roger Tresemer. WCHD: Jennifer Dehmlow, Abbey Anderson, Katherine O'Toole, Neva Ramos, Todd Kisner

What We Did

Identified Winnebago County Animal Services (WCAS) as key partner in identifying challenges for Rabies PEP at the time of exposure.

- Fishbone diagram on challenges to Rabies PEP
- Worked with ED pharmacist to implement an EMR messages for providers to contact WCHD for consultation prior to Rabies PEP
- Identified a need for educational materials for the community on Rabies exposure

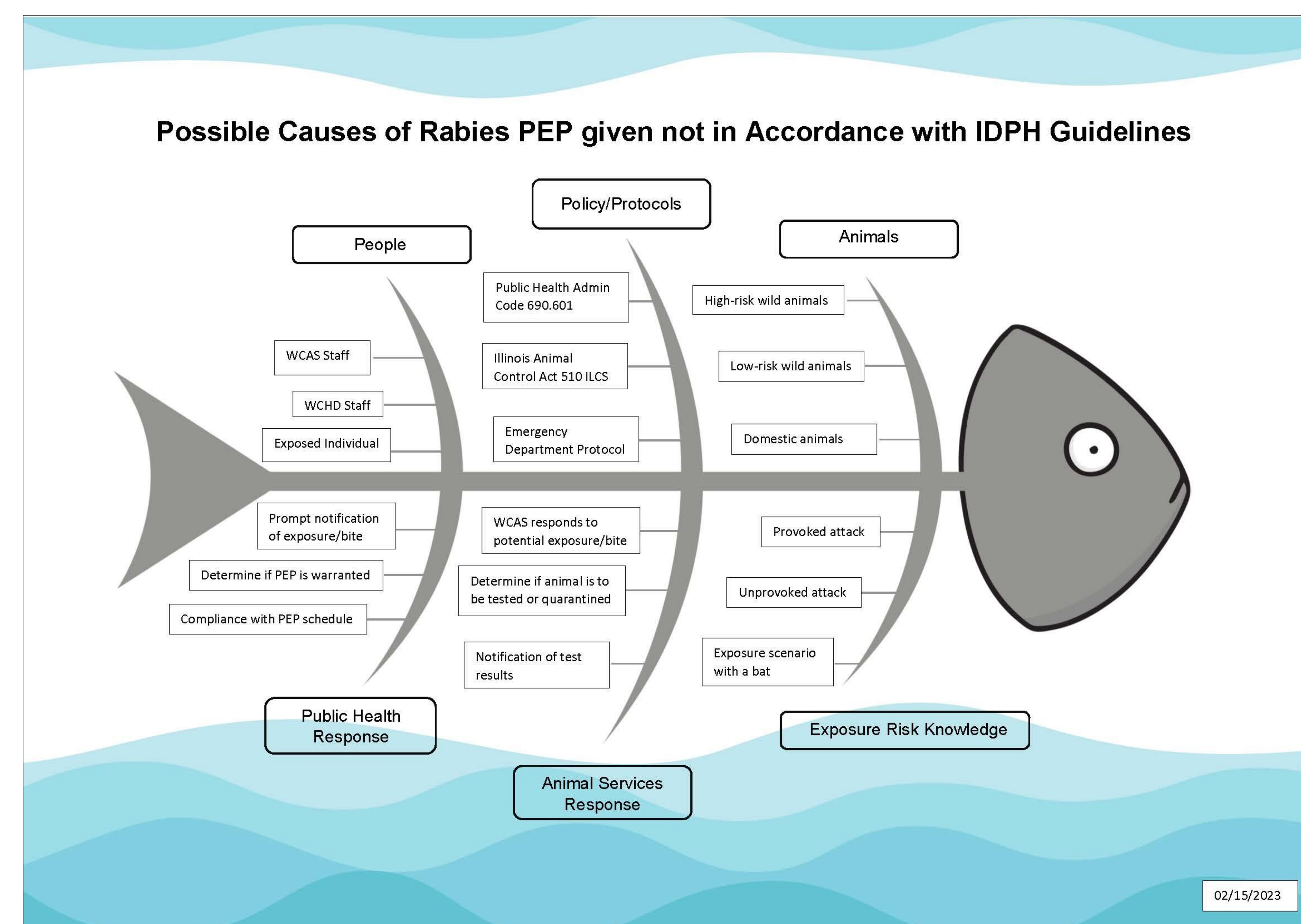
Lessons Learned

Rabies PEP involves multiple sources/agencies to provide appropriate guidance and administration of vaccine.

- Multiple regulatory authorities regarding Rabies
- Rabies testing reasons for low-risk animals
- Lack of community knowledge on Rabies exposure in high risk animals

Results

- Established notification process for bat testing between WCAS and WCHD
- Access for WCAS and WCHD to IDPH on-line Rabies laboratory testing results
- WCHD website page developed for Rabies
- Press release on Rabies issued in August 2023
- Rabies information card for WCAS officer to provide to exposed household



Fishbone Diagram of Potential Challenges to Rabies PEP