

# Animal Bite/ Scratch Protocol

## For the individual bitten:

- Get away from the animal to prevent further injury, and wash and clean the wound
- Alert the area supervisor (senior veterinary technician for the area) &/or the clinician in charge of the case
- If the technician for the area is notified, the technician must alert the clinician in charge of the case about the bite incident at the earliest opportunity
- If the bite victim is an employee, complete the Report of Injury for Employees form. If the bite victim is a student, complete the Student Injury form. Then return the form to the Hospital Administrator.
- If the victim is unable to return the form personally due to the extent of injury, the supervisor or clinician in charge is responsible for returning the form to the appropriate location
- If the employee victim requires medical attention for an injury occurring on the job, medical care must be sought at one of the University medical facilities outlined on the Employee Injury form
- Non-employee victims should seek medical care at a facility of their choosing.

## For the supervisor/ clinician in charge:

- Insure the victim is out of immediate danger and is taking appropriate medical management steps
- Insure the animal is secured and clinician in charge is notified
- Identify the animal's cage with "Will Bite" stickers on treatment record and cage card and write information concerning bite incident on the patient treatment orders or UVIS communications section
- If the animal is deceased, identify the remains with "Rabies Suspect" identification
- Provide appropriate incident forms and assist the victim to complete the forms if they are unable to do so
- Insure the victim is aware of the appropriate protocol to receive emergency medical care
- Insure that the incident form is provided to the Hospital Administrator's office
- Hospital director/administrator is responsible for calling Animal Control to provide details of the bite incident

## For the animal inflicting the bite or scratch:

- Confine the animal to a safe and secure location
- FOLLOWING A BITE/ SCRATCH INCIDENT-- Guidelines to consider when making a decision for disposition of the animal include neurologic status, vaccination status and ownership
  - OWNED ANIMAL, CURRENT VACCINATION STATUS: Veterinarian in charge can either recommend in-hospital or at home quarantine for 10 days (Contact animal control for home confinement)
  - OWNED ANIMAL, CURRENT VACCINATION STATUS, AND ANIMAL BITTEN BY KNOWN RABID ANIMAL: Keep under the owner's control and quarantined for 45 days. The local Animal Control and State Veterinarian should be contacted for advice on revaccination.
  - OWNED ANIMAL, NOT CURRENT VACCINATION STATUS: Quarantine animal at a veterinary facility in Boone County for 10 days.
  - OWNED ANIMAL, NOT CURRENT VACCINATION STATUS AND ANIMAL BITTEN BY WILDLIFE: Isolate and contact the State Veterinarian for further instruction.
  - STRAY/ UNKNOWN OWNER ANIMAL: If neurologically normal, isolate until Animal Control and the State Veterinarian are contacted to provide further instruction.
  - STRAY/ UNKNOWN OWNER ANIMAL SHOWING NEUROLOGIC SIGNS OR BITTEN BY KNOWN RABID ANIMAL: Immediately euthanize and submit animal to the VMDL with clear instructions for rabies testing. Contact the State Veterinarian
- DO NOT vaccinate the animal until the confinement period has been completed (a vaccine reaction can mimic signs of rabies)
- If signs suggestive of rabies develop during quarantine, euthanize the animal and submit for rabies testing
- If the animal is euthanized or dies within the 10-day period following the bite/ scratch incident, the remains must be submitted to the VMDL for rabies testing
- Minimize employee and student contact with any rabies-quarantined animal to limit exposure risk
- For animals that have bitten that reside outside of Boone County, local regulations in the home location may vary from those above

The Hospital Director will notify the bite victim of the rabies testing results.