

# RESPONSE PROCEDURES FOR ANIMAL-RELATED INJURIES

*EH&S Form(s):*

*Developed: 11/05/09*

*Last Update:*

*Reference(s):*

## **Purpose**

The purpose of this SOP is to establish guidelines for response, treatment and report of animal-related injuries. These guidelines are intended for use by all FIU personnel who handle animals, or materials that come in contact with animal bodily fluids or tissues.

## **Introduction**

An animal-related injury can result in a break in the skin, a bruise, or a puncture wound, or by animal saliva, feces or tissue coming in contact with abraded skin, eyes, or mucous membranes. Bites and scratches are a concern of physical injury, as well as a potential of contracting zoonotic disease or allergic reactions.

## **Guidelines**

### *Injury Prevention*

- ◆ Enroll in the FIU Occupational Medical Surveillance Program for an initial and annual medical evaluation to identify any pre-existing conditions (allergies, asthma, etc) that may compromise your health (contact the FIU Biosafety Office for more information 348-3387)
- ◆ Complete training on how to properly handle and/or restrain animals
- ◆ Know the hazards in your work area
- ◆ Use the appropriate personal protective equipment
- ◆ When the project involves hazardous agents, check with your supervisor for specific operating procedures
- ◆ If you have any questions or concerns, talk to your supervisor

### *First Aid Kits*

- ◆ Should be located in readily accessible and visible location
- ◆ Check contents at least once a year for expired items such as topical ointments, etc

### *Minor Injuries (ABSL1 or non-infected animals)*

- ◆ Wash wound with antiseptic soap and water for 10 minutes. Clean thoroughly to remove any dirt, hair, etc.
- ◆ If the wound is bleeding, cover with a sterile gauze.
- ◆ Notify your supervisor. **ALL** injuries, major or minor, should be reported to your supervisor
- ◆ If the wound is severe, seek medical treatment. FIU employees, with their supervisors, must complete an injury/accident report and submit to the FIU Worker's Compensation Program Manager (348-7960) within 24 hours of the incident

### *Injuries involving ABSL2 and above animals*

- ◆ If bitten by an animal that has been treated with an infectious or hazardous agent, IMMEDIATELY wash the wound with antiseptic soap and water for 20 minutes and cover with a sterile gauze if bleeding
- ◆ Notify your supervisor
- ◆ Check the project SOP associated with the animal to determine the organism/hazard that the animal has been treated with. Alert the PI of the situation.
- ◆ **SEEK MEDICAL TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY**

- ◆ Notify the FIU Biosafety Officer (348-3387) with a description of the incident and the organism/hazard involved
- ◆ If a FIU employee, supervisor and employee must complete an injury/accident report and submit to the FIU Worker's Compensation Program Manager within 24 hours of the incident

### *Zoonotic Diseases*

Laboratory rodents and rabbits are specifically bred to exclude zoonotic agents. However, common bacteria found on your skin or the animal's skin can infect the scratch or bite wound and cause secondary infections. Thus, it is important to handle these animals with care, always perform first aid, and seek medical attention for severe or infected wounds.