

## Zoonotic Disease Risk Handout

This information sheet is being supplied to you to help assist you in understanding risks faced in the conduct of your job at The University of Toledo (UT). It is supplied to personnel identified as having a reasonable occupational exposure risk to the agent described. This information has been developed with the assistance of the UT Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine, Office of Health and Safety and the Office of Occupational Medicine. Questions and concerns should be directed to any of the units.

**Rat Bite Fever:** Rat Bite Fever is a bacterial infection that can be caused by two different agents, *Streptobacillus moniliformis* and *Spirillum minus*. The bacteria are often present in the oral and respiratory passages of asymptomatic rodents. As the disease name suggests, people are infected by a bite of infected rodent.

Following a bite, infection at the site of the bite may be seen as well as infection of regional lymphnodes and generalized systemic illness. A rash, especially involving the hands and feet, may be seen. Symptoms usually resolve spontaneously. However, infection can lead to pneumonia, hepatitis, enteritis, endocarditis with a 10% fatality rate.

Proper handling technique of rodents to help avoid bites and scratches is foremost. Should a bite occur, wounds should be promptly washed with soap and warm water to help avoid infection.

When ill, it is important to discuss your possible occupational exposures with your attending physician as this information can be instrumental in timely diagnosis and treatment.