

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

SUBJECT: REPORTING OF ANIMAL BITES

Procedure No: S-08-023

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

All persons bitten by animals owned by the University of Toledo shall immediately complete an [Injury/Illness Report](#) for submission to the Risk Management Department on the Main Campus or Environmental Health and Radiation Safety on the Health Science Campus.

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE

To satisfy both internal and external reporting requirements, to ensure prompt response to the potential for communicable disease, and to identify the mechanism for obtaining first aid.

PROCEDURE

In the event of an animal bite, the individual should report to Main Campus Medical Center on the Main Campus or Family Medicine on the Health Science Campus. The individual should also confirm the date of his/her last tetanus shot.

Rodent Bites

Modern laboratory mice are bred to exclude zoonotic agents. Therefore, there is limited concern for disease from these research mice. Historically, rats have been known to carry a bacterium that causes Rat-Bite Fever. However, these bacteria have not been found in laboratory rats for decades due to the special efforts of commercial suppliers to eliminate the bacteria from breeding colonies.

There is always a risk of a secondary infection that can occur with bites and scratches. Common skin, intestinal, and soil bacteria present on you or the animal can infect the scratch or bite wound and cause secondary infections. Thus, handle all rodents with care:

- Be trained on the proper handling of rodents
- Wear PPE
- Notify your supervisor
- Perform first aid by scrubbing the wound with disinfecting soap. Squeeze puncture wound if necessary express blood while disinfecting
- Complete and return the [Injury/Illness Report](#) for Employees and Students to EHRS and;
- Seek medical consultation for severe wounds that appear to be infected.

***NOTE: In regards to wild animals (including but not limited to dogs, cats, raccoons, squirrels and woodchucks), their feeding is strongly discouraged. Wild animals can potentially carry rabies and other diseases communicable to humans.**

Source: Safety & Health Committee

Effective Date: 6/1/93

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