

ANIMAL BITE AND/OR SCRATCH PROCEDURE

1. All bite or scratch wounds that result in bleeding should be scrubbed and cleansed immediately and thoroughly with soap and water. Injuries sustained from a cat or dog should be washed for 15 minutes. First aid kits are available in most areas. All bite and scratch wounds should be observed closely. If redness, pain, or swelling occur around the wound, a physician should be consulted. Depending on the severity of the injury, the injured person should complete either a report form in the Dean's Office and then go to the Student Health Center (or other hospital), or, in emergencies, to the health center.
2. The employee must inform his or her supervisor of the injury as soon as possible after initial first aid is complete. The injured employee must complete a Workman's Compensation Form and return it to the Dean's Office.
3. A tetanus immunization should be current (within 10 years). If the employee's tetanus vaccination program is not current, he or she should receive a tetanus immunization.
4. Random source dog, cat, or wild animal bites need special attention. The employee must inform immediately a facility attending veterinarian as well as his or her supervisor when such a bite has occurred.
5. Bite incidents may require that the animal be placed under quarantine, especially if the animal's vaccination history is unknown.