

Valdosta State University
Institutional Animal Care and Use Program

First Aid Procedures: Animal Scratches and Bites

FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCY, CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY

- 1. Cleanse Wound:** Immediately wash and rinse the wound with soap or detergent solution and rinse with a high volume of water for at least 5 minutes or 10 minutes if extensive or extremely dirty. If the injury involves mucous membranes (eye, nose, and/or mouth), flush with water for 15 minutes at eyewash station or other potable water source.
- 2. Control Bleeding:** Apply continuous pressure for 5 - 10 minutes. If bleeding is not controlled, seek medical assistance immediately.
- 3. Report Incident:** All incidents must be reported to your immediate supervisor. The supervisor will complete the Animal Worker Incident of Injury/Illness Report and forward to the Office of Environmental and Occupational Safety, IACUC Administrator, and, if applicable, the Office of Human Resources.
- 4. Seek Medical Treatment:** If medical treatment is needed, proceed to the designated facility.

Students:

- During normal hours: 8am - 5:30pm (M,T,W,Th); 8am - 3pm (F); 10am - 2pm (Sat)
Student Health Center, 200 Georgia Ave; 229-333-5886
- After-Hours (Non-Emergency): **Valdosta Family Medicine**, 2412 N. Oak St., 229-244-1400
- After Hours (Emergency): **South Georgia Medical Center**, 2501 N. Patterson St., 229-333-1000 or **Smith Northview Hospital**, 4280 N. Valdosta Rd., 229-671-2000

Non-Student Employees:

- (Non-Emergency): **Valdosta Family Medicine** (workers comp physicians), 2412 N. Oak St., 229-244-1400
- (Emergency): **South Georgia Medical Center**, 2501 N. Patterson St., 229-333-1000 or **Smith Northview Hospital**, 4280 N. Valdosta Rd., 229-671-2000

Other Information

Laboratory Rodents: Bites or scratches by laboratory rodents specifically bred and commercially procured for research purposes do not usually cause infection unless very deep or an unusual pathogen is present.

Reptiles, Birds, and Wild Animals: Bites or scratches may result in exposure to bacterial pathogens that may require antibiotic treatment, especially for deep wounds.