

The following guidelines have been established for individuals working with Wild Animals:

- You must have a current Tetanus/diphtheria (Td) vaccination: (one that can be documented within last 10 years).
 - It is highly recommended that you receive a Td booster if you experience a significant injury and your vaccination was administered more than 5 years previous.
 - It is highly recommended that you receive a Td booster if you have not been vaccinated within the last 10 years.
- Appropriate PPE should be provided where hazards exist.
- A Respiratory Protection Program is available for any employees/students working in dusty (feeds, hay, dried animal waste, etc.) environments requiring a half face or full-face respirator for respiratory protection. All employees and students working in these environments must enroll in the University's Respiratory Protection program (TTU OP 60.05). Visitors should be warned of the nature of the dusts (allergies, ocular/nasal irritation), and exposure limited by short duration in the area for touring purposes only.
 - This program includes medical examinations with a yearly physician's statement of medical qualification to wear a respirator.
 - Yearly respirator fit testing is required for half or full-face respirators, and will be performed by TTU-EH&S.
- All employees and students should be aware of the potential physical risks associated with the particular species with which they will be working. The risks may include, but are not limited to, bites and scratches.
- All employees and students should be properly trained in handling and trapping techniques with the particular species with which they will be working. For appropriate training, please contact your supervisor.
- Rabies Vaccinations (IACUC Policy 23)
 - Pre-Exposure: All employees and students on an approved TTU IACUC protocol who handle, trap and/or obtain samples from live mammal species known to be zoonotic carriers of rabies (bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, dogs, cats, and ferrets), which do not have a documented rabies vaccine must utilize pre-exposure rabies vaccination available through the Occupational Health

Program. Pre-exposure vaccination is not required if exposure to animal bites can be physically mitigated using personal protective equipment or engineered controls (e.g., muzzles). Costs for this vaccination will be split equally between the employee or employee's department and the Occupational Health Program. Only individuals that have a documented antibody titer within the last two years will be considered vaccinated under this guideline.

Volunteers and students not on an approved protocol who handle, trap and/or obtain samples from live mammal species known to be zoonotic carriers of rabies and cannot physically mitigate exposure to animal bites using personal protective equipment or engineered controls that prevent a bite must be vaccinated for rabies and provide proof of effective immunologic titer at their own cost. Vaccinations for rabies will follow the guidelines of the Centers for Disease Control - Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

- Post-Exposure: Any employee or student that receives a bite or scratch from animals described in this document should first clean the wound with soap and water and then report the incident to their supervisor and seek out medical attention which may include post-exposure prophylaxis. The employee or student must also notify the Office of Risk Management and Environmental Health and Safety as soon as possible.
- All employees and students should be aware of potential allergens associated with the particular species with which they will be working.
- All employees and students should be aware of the potential zoonoses (See appendix 1 and 10) associated with the species with which they will be working and may specifically include information on arthropod-borne diseases, especially those transmitted from rodents via fleas and ticks.