



Cornell University Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education

CARE707.01 Animal Related Injury

The intent of this standard operating procedure (SOP) is to describe how to treat relatively minor animal related injuries. This SOP is intended for use by all personnel who handle animals, or materials that come into contact with animal bodily fluids or tissues. This SOP is approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and by the Cornell Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE). Any exemption must be approved by the IACUC prior to its application.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Materials
3. Procedures
4. Safety
5. Contingencies
6. References
7. Appendix

1. Introduction

- a. This standard operating procedure outlines what to do when there is an animal related injury.
- b. Animal related injury implies bite, kick, scratch, and break in the skin or mucous membrane and/or exposure to animal tissues, fluids, or excretions.

2. Materials

- a. First-Aid kit
 - i. Must be located in an obvious, readily available location.
 - ii. The facility manager or their designee is responsible for maintaining the first-aid kit and checking the expiration dates.
 - iii. Contents must include:
 - Surgical scrubs impregnated with antiseptic soap
 - Sterile gauze pads
 - Adhesive tape
 - Band-aids

- Exam gloves
- Eye wash (at proximity of the first-aid kit; location must be obvious)
- Emergency contact numbers (Gannett Health Services: 255-5155; Cornell Police: 255-1111 or 911; Facility Manager; or CARE: 1-800-349-2456).

3. Procedures

- a. Stop any procedure or manipulation. If possible, secure the animal in a cage or enclosure.
- b. For major injuries such as broken bones, fall or kick injury or cardiac arrest call 911 (from a campus phone).

- Provide first aid to the best of your ability.
- Use precautions to prevent exposure to bodily fluids.
- If you determine that the patient is pulse less and non-breathing, begin Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or use an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) device if available.
- Note: Do not attempt CPR or use an AED unless trained to do so.
- Stay calm; do not get excited. This will reassure the patient that help is on the way.
- Refrain from moving the patient unless it is absolutely necessary for safety reasons.
- Make the patient as comfortable as possible.
- Gather all of the medication that the patient may be taking. This will help Emergency Responders better determine the medical history of the patient.
- Remember the time, this is very important. When was the last time you talked to the patient? How long has this medical condition existed? How long has the person been unconscious?
- Meet the Emergency Responders and direct/lead them to the patient.

- c. For minor injuries:

- Let the wound slightly bleed under running water and gently scrub with the surgical sponge and antiseptic soap. Wash the wound until visible dirt and debris are gone.
- Apply gauze and firm pressure to control bleeding. Apply a band aid if the wound is superficial and not bleeding.
- Thoroughly rinse exposed mucous membranes under running water or using the eye wash.

- d. Notify the Occupational Medicine Office at Gannett Health Services at 255-6960 (for after hours: 255-5155) to determine if further care is needed.
- e. Report the accident to your supervisor and to the facility manager. If the exposure involves an animal intentionally infected with a pathogen, the IACUC must be notified as well.
- f. Patient and supervisor must fill out an [Accident Report](#) within 24 hours.

4. Safety- N/A

5. Contingencies- N/A

6. References

Stanford EH&S

http://www.group.slac.stanford.edu/esh/emergency/whattodo/guides_medical.htm

EH&S Accident Report

<http://www.ehs.cornell.edu/forms/>

7. Appendix

Written by/date :
Jim Gourdon,
Oct. 9, 2002

Effective date :
Dec. 6, 2002

Review date :
December 2008

Referees:
J. Wright &
F. Cantone

SOP :
CARE707.01