

# STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

SOP#: 034

Date Issued: 3/17

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<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Responses to Animal Bites and Scratches (Dog/Cat/Ferret)</b>
<b>SCOPE:</b>	All Staff
<b>RESPONSIBILITY:</b>	Area Supervisors, Attending Veterinarian
<b>PURPOSE:</b>	To Provide Procedures to Follow in the Event of a Bite or Scratch from a Dog, Cat or Ferret

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## I. PROCEDURES

1. **If an individual is bitten or scratched by a dog, cat, or ferret** immediately scrub the wound with water and soap then report the injury immediately to a supervisor following the procedures outlined in **SOP # 029 Reporting/Tracking Work Related Injury/Illness**.

**Note: You do not have to seek medical care immediately but the injury/illness must be reported to your supervisor and to AmeriSys, so there is a record of the injury/illness if treatment is required at a later date.**

2. **Notify the attending veterinarian or their designee, and the facility manager** for guidance in handling the animal. **DO NOT EUTHANIZE THE ANIMAL.**
3. **The animal must be quarantined** by Comparative Medicine staff for a minimum of **10 days**. If the animal does not show clinical signs of rabies at that time, the exposed person(s) will be notified and the animal returned to the Investigator. The attending veterinarian or designee is responsible for providing notification.
4. If the animal exhibits clinical signs of rabies disease or dies during quarantine, the exposed person(s) will be notified by Comparative Medicine. The attending veterinarian or designee is responsible for providing notification
5. **Any animal that dies or is euthanized due to illness during the 10 day quarantine period** will undergo necropsy by the attending veterinarian or designee for post mortem evaluation as a rabies suspect. The Tampa branch of the Bureau of Public Health (BPHL) will be notified at (813) 974-4052, (813) 974-8556 or 24/7 line (813) 883-5939 for tissue shipping instructions and forms, and Comparative Medicine is responsible for shipping the animal. **DO NOT FREEZE THE HEAD.**
6. Comparative Medicine and Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) will develop a list of all persons who had any contact, direct or indirect, with the animal or its specimens.
7. Based on the pathology results individuals may be directed to contact AmeriSys to report a work related exposure.
8. The Pathology report from BPHL will be reviewed by Comparative Medicine and EH&S, and provided to the Principal Investigator and an individual's medical provider as needed.

Reference: Rabies Prevention and Control in FL, FL Dept. of Health, 2014.

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-andconditions/rabies/documents/rabiesguide2014final2.pdf>

**Approved:**

**Date:**