

LSU SVM Policy Manual	Policy Number:
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**STANDARD-OPERATING-PROCEDURE FOR
DOGS AND CATS WHICH HAVE BITTEN A HUMAN
PRIOR TO PRESENTATION OR DURING THEIR STAY AT THE LSU-SVM VTH**

1. Official documents from the CDC and EBR Parish Ordinances (Section 14.212)

(a) Dog and Cat Bite Case in General:

- 1) The breaking of the skin of any person by a dog or cat shall be considered a bite case; except that if a dog or cat that is currently vaccinated and licensed scratches a person, that animal shall not be required to be held for observation. All unvaccinated dog or cat that have scratched or bitten a person shall be held for observation. Stray dogs or cats may be sacrificed for testing or held for ten (10) days' observation.
- 2) All bite cases shall be reported to the animal control center or to the Baton Rouge Police Department or East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office as soon as possible and in no case more than twenty-four (24) hours after such bite. It shall be the responsibility of the owner of the animal and/or the person bitten to report such fact to the proper authorities as stated above.
- 3) Any dog or cat that has bitten a human shall be impounded at the animal control center or licensed veterinarian of the owner's choice for a period of not less than ten (10) days from the date of the bite.
- 4) Any dog or cat which is suspected of being rabid may be destroyed and its head shall be submitted for proper testing at a suitable facility or may be held for ten (10) days for rabies observation at a licensed veterinarian or at the animal control center.

(b) In-Home Rabies Observation:

The EBR Animal Control Center may consider in-home ten (10) days' rabies observation only if the following criteria are met:

- 1) The owner of the animal agrees to the in-home observation and signs a form recognizing such agreement.

- 2) The animal was in full compliance with the requirements under sections 14:200 and 14:201 at the time of the bite [i.e. registered with EBR Parish and vaccinated against rabies].
- 3) The animal was not at large at the time of the bite.
- 4) The owner signs an indemnity clause holding the animal control center and city-parish harmless from any and all liability which might arise while the animal is undergoing in-home observation.
- 5) The animal control center may inspect the facilities at any time to determine compliance.
- 6) The animal is secured on the property at all times during observation in a room, pen, or other structure to prevent escape and contact with other animals or humans other than the owner.
- 7) Animals shall be examined by a licensed veterinarian within twenty-four (24) hours after the end of the observation period, and the EBR Animal Control Center shall be notified of release within twenty-four (24) hours thereof.
- 8) The EBR Animal Control Center shall be notified within twenty-four (24) hours if the animal dies, escapes or becomes ill during the observation period.
- 9) If the animal control center observes any violation of this exception, the animal shall then be seized and taken to the EBR Animal Control Center or a licensed veterinary facility; and the owner may be issued a summons for violation of this part.
- 10) All law enforcement agencies are exempt from this requirement. Vaccination status of all K-9 or enforcement dogs shall be retained by the agency involved.

2. Procedure for bite incidents at LSU-SVM VTH&C

If somebody has been bitten or scratched by an unvaccinated small animal, or bitten by a vaccinated animal, follow the procedures outlined below in compliance with EBR Parish ordinances (see above)

- 1) Take proper immediate care of the wound (thorough cleaning and disinfection), and immediately visit the LSU Student Health Services or a physician of their choice for further care. If bitten by a rabies suspect animal, refer to the procedure outlined in the rabies SOP.
- 2) Proper documentation MUST be filed for each bite incident with the VTH Office. This includes an incident report with the VTH and LSU <https://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/ehs/files/2010/12/WCInjuryRp.pdf> as well as a bite report to be faxed to the EBR Parish Animal Control Center immediately or as soon as possible on the next business day.
- 3) The rabies vaccination status of the animal must be ascertained.

- 4) Proper measures for the 10-day observation period must be implemented.
- i. If the animal qualifies for an in-home observation and the owner is willing to do it, the procedure must be discussed in detail with the owner. The restrictions in movement of the animal and contact with people must be outlined, and the requirement for a veterinary visit within 24 hours following the end of the observation period must be discussed. A form for in-home observation (EBR Parish) must be filled, signed and sent to the EBR Animal Control Center.
 - ii. If the animal is vaccinated and comes from another Parish or State, the EBR Animal Control Director must be consulted to identify the best option concerning implementation of the observation period.
 - iii. If the animal does not qualify for the in home observation, it must be kept at the VTH (isolation unit or ward 5) or at a veterinary hospital of the owner's choosing for 10 days. Arrangements with veterinarians outside LSU SVM must be made directly by the faculty clinician in charge of the case.
 - iv. In unclear cases, particularly if they occur outside of business hours, a conservative approach should be taken, and the animal should be kept at the LSU VTH for the required observation period.