

Bite Procedures

If the bite is from a research animal in the vivarium,

- apply direct pressure with a clean, dry cloth,
- Thoroughly wash the wound and surrounding area thoroughly with an antibacterial soap.
- It is recommended to scrub vigorously for 3-5 minutes, rinse, and repeat two more times.
- Apply an antibiotic cream.
- Apply a Sterile bandage to the wound.
- Inform your supervisor of the incident.
- Seek Medical Attention

If the bite creates a deep puncture and is bleeding or if the bite is from a wild animal,

- apply direct pressure with a clean, dry cloth,
- Thoroughly wash the wound and surrounding area thoroughly with an antibacterial soap.
- Seek medical attention
- Renew your tetanus shot if not current
- Observe the wound over time. Seek medical attention if you notice signs of infection (redness, drainage, increased pain)
- Do not euthanize the animal or dispose of the carcass. Contact the ISU facility veterinarian.

If the bite is from a rattlesnake or other toxic snake

- Keep the bitten area still. You can immobilize the area with an improvised splint made from a board, magazines, or other stiff material tied to the limb. Don't tie it too tight---you don't want to reduce blood flow.
- Remove any jewelry or constricting items near the affected area in case of swelling.

Animal Use Occupational Health Plan – Reference

Procedures/Program for reporting and tracking injuries and illness

- Keep the area of the area of the snake bite lower than the heart.
- Go to a hospital immediately. If you cannot get to a hospital immediately, call the National Poison Control and Drug Information Center at 1-800-222-1222 immediately.

Where to Report a Bite –

It is important to know in advance where you should report on weekdays during regular business hours, after hours, weekends, and holidays. Generally, university employees report to the Idaho State University Family Medical Clinic (208) 282-4700) on weekdays during normal business hours, and to the Portneuf Medical Center emergency room

Students should seek care at the ISU Health Center during working hours and the Portneuf Medical Center after hours. Students should see their preferred physician for follow-up treatment.

Individuals should promptly report any illnesses, needle stick, bite or scratch wounds, or splashes that might result from animal contact to the principal investigator and the Animal Facility Manager.