

UWO Rabies Immunization Policy

PURPOSE

The Rabies Immunization Policy is designed to ensure that all students, faculty and administrative staff of the university working with dogs, cats and/or wild mammals are protected from exposure to rabies.

RESPONSIBILITY

Compliance with the policy is the responsibility of the Deans, Budget Unit Heads or individual researchers. It is the responsibility of the foregoing to notify the Staff/Faculty Health Service whenever a person under their jurisdiction requires immunization under this policy.

DEFINITIONS

(a) High Risk Persons

For the purpose of this policy, a high risk person is any person who, as a necessary part of his or her job description, research project or coursework, is required to come into direct physical contact with dogs, cats and/or wild mammals.

(b) Low Risk Persons

For the purpose of this policy, a low risk person is any person who, as a necessary part of his or her job description, research project or coursework, is required to have frequent access to the animal holding areas or to observe animals in the wild, but who is not required to have direct physical contact with the animals.

REQUIREMENTS

(a) High Risk Persons

All High Risk Persons are required:

(i) To be immunized against rabies; or

(ii) To provide proof of immunization against rabies; or

(iii) To demonstrate immunity (titre higher than 1 in 16) at either the time of hiring or enrollment, or at the initiation of the project which causes the individual to become a high risk person.

(b) Low Risk Persons

All low risk persons must be identified and informed of the hazards of rabies as it applies to their position. Rabies immunization will be provided upon request to members of this group but will not be required.

(c) Annual Review

All high risk persons and any low risk persons who wish to be included in the immunization program, will have an annual assessment of their immunity (titre), and booster shots will be given as required.

(d) Cost

The cost of the immunization program and the annual reassessment shall be borne by the budget unit or research project involved.