


The UNIVERSITY of WESTERN ONTARIO
Physical Plant and Capital Planning Services Division

POLICY:			NUMBER:
RABIES IMMUNIZATION POLICY			S-9
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PREPARED BY:	AUTHORIZED BY:	CLASSIFICATION:	EFFECTIVE:
PP&CPSD	 D.V.B. Riddell	Safety Procedure	September 1, 2004
			SUPERSEDES:
			December 1, 1983

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.

However, this policy does not apply to animal holding areas which contain only mice, rats or other rodents; as it is impossible to contract rabies from such animals.

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:

1. 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 course work, is required to come into direct physical contact with dogs, cats and/or wild mammals.

2. 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 course work, 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 animals.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. High-Risk Persons

All high-risk persons are required:

1. To be immunized against rabies; or
2. To provide proof of immunization against rabies; or
3. To demonstrate immunity (titre higher than 1 in 16).

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REQUIREMENTS- continued:

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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Cost

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