

First Aid for Research Animal Bites, Scratches and Splashes


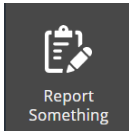
Exposure Guidelines

This guideline is for all research animal bites, scratches, and splashes except for exposure to macaques. If exposed to macaques, please refer to [Management of Suspected Exposure to Macacine Alphaherpesvirus 1 \(B Virus\) Procedure](#).

As part of the local area induction, all staff and students must be made aware of the location of the first aid kits and local First Aiders.

First Aid for Bites & Scratches	First Aid for Splashes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wash the wound with soap or antiseptic and water, immediately. There is no need to encourage the wound to bleed. Cover the wound with a dressing. Seek medical attention as per next section. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Rinse the affected area with running water continuously for 15 minutes. Seek medical attention as per next section.
<p>Note: For injuries, bites, or scratches caused by animals that have been exposed to chemicals or biological agents (e.g., injected with carcinogens, pathogens, or infectious agents), please refer to the Risk Assessment(s) to determine if additional first aid treatments are required.</p>	
When to Seek Medical Attention	
Immediate Medical Attention	
High-risk animals	Regardless of severity of injury (e.g. bats, flying foxes, wild animals).
Severe injuries	Deep punctures, profuse bleeding, crush injuries.
Medical Attention within 24 Hours	
Moderate injuries	Lacerations, bites, scratches, splashes to mucosa or open wounds
Bites in vulnerable areas	Face, neck, genitals, hands, feet
Other wounds and exposures	All other puncture wounds, immunocompromised individuals or if there are concerns
Monitor and Seek Medical Attention if Symptoms Develop	
Minor injuries	Superficial scratches or scrapes, superficial puncture wound from non-high-risk animal
Potential management required upon seeking medical attention	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further wound management Tetanus-prone wounds: If it has been more than 5 years since the casualty's last tetanus booster, they should seek medical attention and alert the medical treating clinician. Prophylactic treatment as clinically indicated, e.g. rabies booster, antibiotics 	

First Aid Documentation and Incident Reporting

Documentation	Reporting Process
First Aid Online Report (QR code) 	<p>If first aid was provided, a First Aid Report must be completed. A copy of the form can be accessed by scanning the QR code which is located on the outside of the first aid kit.</p>
Hazard and Incident Reporting in SARAH+ 	<p>An incident report must be logged in SARAH as soon as practicable. Invite the Animal Facility Manager (if the incident occurred at an animal facility). The injured persons Safety Officer can provide support in entering the report.</p>

Note: All staff and students who handle animals must have completed the appropriate animal handling training and be deemed competent for activities they are required to perform.

Reference documents:

- [First Aid Procedure](#)
- [Immunisation Procedure](#)
- [Using Biologicals and Animals Procedure](#)
- [Managing OHS Hazard and Incidents Procedure](#)