A. Purpose
This Guideline describes how to respond to animal related injuries.

Animal related injury implies a bite, kick, scratch, crush, or break in the skin or mucous membrane and/or exposure to animal tissues, fluids, or excretions.

B. Materials
1) Emergency contact numbers posted clearly. Health Services: 255-5155; Police: 255-1111 or 911; Facility Manager).
2) First-Aid kit
   a) Must be located in an obvious, readily available location.
   b) The facility manager or their designee is responsible for maintaining the first-aid kit and checking expiration dates.
   c) Contents must include (at a minimum):
      i) Antiseptic
      ii) Sterile gauze pads
      iii) Adhesive tape
      iv) Band-aids
      v) Exam gloves
3) Emergency Eyewash Station location posted clearly.
4) Accident/Injury log located in ACF office.

C. Guideline
5) In the event of an animal related injury, stop any procedure or manipulation. If possible, secure the animal in a cage or enclosure.
6) For major injuries (e.g., broken bones, fall or kick injury, cardiac arrest, etc), immediately call 911 and follow instructions from emergency personnel.
7) For minor injuries:
   a) Wounds, bites, punctures:
      i) Wash hands thoroughly with soap and clean water if possible.
      ii) Avoid touching the wound while treating it (if possible, use disposable, latex gloves).
      iii) Remove obstructive jewelry and clothing from the injured body part.
      iv) Apply gauze and firm pressure to control bleeding.
      v) Clean the wound after major bleeding has stopped:
         (1) Examine wound for dirt and foreign objects.
         (2) Gently flood the wound with bottled water or clean running water (if possible, saline solution is preferred).
         (3) Gently clean the wound with the antiseptic soap and clean water.
(a) Wash the wound for 15 minutes or until visible dirt and debris are gone, whichever is longer.
   vi) Pat dry and apply an adhesive bandage or dry clean cloth.
   vii) Leave unclean wounds, bites, and punctures open. Wounds that are not cleaned correctly can trap bacteria and result in infection.

b) Exposure to animal tissues, fluids, or excretions.

c) Mucous membrane exposure: thoroughly rinse exposed mucous membranes under running water or by using the eye wash for 15 minutes.

d) Non-mucous membrane exposure: wash affected tissue as per standard hygienic Hand Washing.

8) Log the accident in the Accident/Injury log book.
9) Report the accident to your supervisor and to the facility manager.
10) The individual and the supervisor must fill out an Accident Report (if applicable) as soon as possible.

D. Safety
11) When working with animals wear appropriate PPE. Observe proper hygiene, and be aware of allergy, zoonosis, and injury risks. Check with the facility supervisor regarding requirements for personal protective equipment and refer to PPE guidelines.