

Comprehensive Rabies Vaccination Status Mitigation Plan

Purpose: To align with the AVMA-CVTEA requirement for accreditation of the Veterinary Technology Programs of Baker College to Standard 4e. The accredited veterinary programs are located on the Jackson, Owosso, Cadillac and Muskegon campuses of Baker College.

Standard 4e.

COMMITTEE ON VETERINARY TECHNICIAN EDUCATION AND ACTIVITIES (CVTEA)® ACCREDITATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (P&P) MANUAL, Effective January 1, 2022

Safety of students, program personnel, and animals must be of prime consideration.

Students must be educated on rabies risk prior to working with animals.

Prior to live animal use, students must be vaccinated against rabies or the program must implement a comprehensive rabies mitigation protocol as described in Appendix A.

(Refer to Statement on Safety, Appendix A).

APPENDIX A

Rabies Supplement – Comprehensive Rabies Mitigation Plan

Rabies in humans can be prevented either by eliminating exposures to rabid animals or by providing exposed persons with prompt local treatment of wounds combined with appropriate postexposure prophylaxis (including both passive antibody administration and active immunization with cell culture vaccines). In addition, pre-exposure vaccination should be offered to persons in high-risk groups, such as veterinarians, animal handlers, and certain laboratory workers. Student safety must be considered above financial challenges. The Committee is supportive of program's assisting students to manage the cost of vaccination including methods to integrate the cost of the vaccine into tuition or fees that may be supported by federal financial aid.

- Recommended sources for guidelines regarding zoonotic disease and rabies protection: Rabies, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/specific_groups/veterinarians/index.html
- What is Rabies, World Health Organization, <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/rabies>
- CFSPH - The Center for Food Security and Public Health, https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/FastFacts/pdfs/rabies_F.pdf

Mitigation Plan Components

1. Vaccination of animals (cats, dogs, horses, food and fiber species)

- Animals used in live animal teaching methods will have been vaccinated a minimum of 30 days prior to use or limited to use by faculty and students who have received prophylactic pre-exposure rabies vaccine.
- Vaccination status of all animals used in live animal teaching will be maintained in the permanent medical records of Baker College Veterinary Technology Program.
- Any animal of unknown vaccine status will be documented in the permanent medical record and held from live teaching for a minimum of 45 days or until vaccinated for a minimum of 30 days.
- Any animal of unknown vaccine status may be handled by vaccinated faculty members only during the hold period.

2. Hold/ seroconversion period post rabies vaccination

- Documentation of the holding period including location and handling procedures will be maintained in permanent holding location animal records.
- The Baker College Veterinary Technology Program will partner with outside animal resource facilities which furnish animals for off-site teaching to ensure “hold” periods for animal species not vaccinated for rabies are a minimum of 45 days prior to use by Baker College Veterinary Technology faculty for live teaching.
- The Baker College Veterinary Technology Program will maintain records on-site in the Animal Resource File assigned to each Off-site location.

3. Hold Period for Un-vaccinated animals

- The Baker College Veterinary Technology Program will maintain vaccination status of animals un-vaccinated for rabies including acquisition date at location and handling procedures.

4. Communication to external parties – animal sources, off-campus sites, externship sites

- The Baker College Veterinary Technology Program Faculty will ensure the memorandum of understanding (MOU) for each external partner includes notification of the mitigation protocol for Rabies showing either the animals in use or the students and faculty are vaccinated. The MOU will communicate the minimum “holding” periods for all “new” animals into a herd/colony based upon current vaccine status.
- The Baker College Veterinary Technology Program Faculty will ensure students and external partners are aware of the limitations for interaction of unvaccinated students with animals of unverified rabies vaccination status.
- The Baker College Veterinary Technology Program Faculty will ensure that vaccine and acquisition status of all animals provided through off-site campus facilities is verified prior to use by the program for teaching purposes.

5. Communication to internal parties

- Program faculty will ensure all internal parties: (CEO/President and general counsel of Baker College are provided a copy of the comprehensive information about rabies as a disease, a copy of student vaccination status, and the mitigation protocol

6. Communication to students

- Documentation of comprehensive rabies information will be provided to Baker College Veterinary Technology students in the Baker College A.A.S Veterinary Technology Student Handbook upon enrollment in the program.
- Students will be required to provide documentation of current vaccine status, titer report, release waiver upon acceptance into the program or will be required to undergo the prophylactic series of rabies pre-exposure vaccine prior to interaction with live animals by the end of the first eight weeks of the program. Any student not vaccinated for rabies will be limited in interaction with live animal use of unknown vaccine status and may need to identify alternate methods of skills acquisition.
- Documentation of contact tracing of any student working with animals with an unverified vaccine status will be maintained by program faculty in the event the animal exhibits signs of illness or is diagnosed with rabies. Students working with live animals will be required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Students will be able to receive the rabies vaccination series either through their own health care provider (out-of-pocket student expense), through the county health department, or through local Walgreen or CVS pharmacies or additional resources if available. Financial aid recipients who have concerns with the costs of this vaccination should contact the financial aid advisors during their first semester (prior to applying to the program) at financialaid@baker.edu or 989-729-3911.

7. Comprehensive Risk Assessment: local rabies prevalence

- Risk assessment information will be maintained by Baker College _Cadillac, Jackson, Muskegon and Owosso Veterinary Technology Program in the program director's office in regard to each learning, internship, and animal resource location currently utilized by the program.