**SOP Title:** Handling Laboratory Animal Bites and Scratches

**Purpose:** To treat animal-related injuries

**Responsibility:** Animal Users, Principal Investigators, Technician, Director and Scientific Officers

**Related SOP:** NA

**Written by:** Dr. Siva Tsang (SO/APCF)  **Approved by:** Dr. Anthony James (D/APCF)

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1. **Bite and Scratch Prevention**
   1.1. Degree and chance of getting bitten and scratched by laboratory animals can be minimized by handling rodents gently and with confidence. Rodents that have been habituated to gentle handling are less stressed and less likely to bite. Applying the proper restraining technique is always essential, and users are not permitted to handle rodents until they have been based as competent to handle rodents by APCF training staff.

   1.2. If, however, a handler gains more confidence by using more robust gloves over their PPE gloves, then the use of 'protective' gloves is permitted provided the gloves fit the hands of the handler correctly, do not significantly hinder the sensation of touch or movement of the hands so the handler can be sure of the pressure applied and the gloves can be sanitized after handling the rodents.

2. **First aid for Animal Bites and Scratches**
   2.1. Wash the wound immediately with running water for at least 15 minutes.

   2.2. Access the first aid box in the respective facility (i.e. locating in the operating room 7205 in 7J or in the clean corridor of 7H) and disinfect the wound with alcohol or other available disinfectants such as povidone iodine or chlorhexidine.

   2.3. Cover the wound with a sterile adhesive dressing from the first aid box.

   2.4. Notify the APCF technician in-charge of the room concerned and the user’s supervisor regarding the incident.

   2.5. Depending on the severity of the wound, seek medical help from the Medical Clinic in HKUST or other medical center if it is beyond office hours. Seeking medical assistance for the risk of getting infectious disease is optional.

   2.6. If possible, identify the involved animal as it may be the subject of later investigation.