

RABIES ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

Rabies is a rare, but almost always fatal, viral disease that affects the central nervous system of mammals, including humans. It is most commonly transmitted through the bite or scratch of an infected animal. However, exposure can also occur through contact with the saliva or nervous system tissue of an infected animal, particularly if it enters at a break in the skin or comes into contact with mucous membranes (eyes, nose, mouth).

While Penn Vet maintains high safety standards, any environment where animals are housed or treated carries some risk of rabies exposure. Therefore, all visitors must review and sign this acknowledgment and release form before participating in observational or clinical experiences.

By signing below, I acknowledge the following:

- I understand that rabies is a serious and fatal zoonotic disease.
- I have been informed of the potential risks of exposure, including through bites, scratches, or contact with saliva or neural tissue.
- I understand that pre-exposure rabies vaccination is strongly recommended for individuals who may handle animals or work in close proximity to them.
- I agree to report any potential exposure immediately to my supervisor or designated staff member.
- I voluntarily accept the risk of rabies exposure during my time at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine and, by signing this document, I release the University, its trustees, employees, agents, and students from any liability related to such exposure.

For more information on rabies, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

 <https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/index.html>

Printed Name:	
Signature:	
Date:	