

All students enrolling in the veterinary technology program must be given the following information to read. As a condition of enrollment each student must sign the waivers located at the end of this document indicating that they have read and understood the material presented herein. These waivers are to be submitted to the Program Director by the end of the first week of school and will be stored in the student's file in the Admissions/Records Office.

YUBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Yuba College is located in Marysville, California in the northern Sacramento Valley. The Yuba College Veterinary Technology Program was established in 1971 and graduated its first class in 1972; the program then applied for and was granted probational accreditation by the American Veterinary Medical Association in 1978. Full accreditation status was granted in 1983 and again in 1988. The program has maintained full accreditation status since that time. Written reports must be submitted to the American Veterinary Medical Association every other year and representatives from the AVMA visit the campus to inspect the facilities and thoroughly evaluate the program regularly.

The mission of the Yuba College Veterinary Technology Program is to provide the student with the education needed to enable immediate employability of graduates, at an entry level, in today's workplace.

The goal is to provide an opportunity for students to become successful veterinary technicians who will contribute to veterinary medicine in their communities.

Examples of the areas of responsibility qualified veterinary technicians are educated to assume include:

- Physical Examination and Patient History
- Client Education
- Caring for the Hospitalized Patient
- Administration of Medication and Vaccines
- Clinical Laboratory Procedures
- Dental Prophylaxis
- Radiology
- Anesthesiology
- Surgical Assisting
- Office/ Hospital Management
- Biomedical Research

In California a registered veterinary technician perform the tasks of anesthesia induction and monitoring, suturing of existing skin incisions, application of casts and splints, and dental care to include prophylactic cleaning and extractions.

The course of study in Veterinary Technology Program entails at least two academic years and leads to an Associate of Science. Students complete the two year academic program on the Marysville campus. Each student is also required to participate in a rotation through area veterinary facilities for a minimum of 500 hours of additional clinical experience prior to graduation. Graduates of the Veterinary Technology Program are eligible to take the California State and National licensing examinations to become a Registered Veterinary Technician.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Selection of candidates for entry into the Veterinary Technology Program occurs each spring. A completed Veterinary Technology application and college transcripts must be received by the Veterinary Technology Program administrator prior to May 15th in order to be eligible for entrance in the subsequent fall semester. The Program starts a new class each fall semester. The Veterinary Technology Program application may be printed from the Program's website: http://www.yccd.edu/yuba/vettech/vt_application.pdf . General application to or enrollment at Yuba College does not imply acceptance into the Veterinary Technology Program. Registration for Program courses is not allowed until after the applicant has been notified in writing of official acceptance in the Program. Qualified applicants will be notified of this preliminary acceptance into the Program by June 1st. Attendance and participation in the Veterinary Technology Program Orientation is a mandatory requirement before final acceptance of a candidate. This orientation, held on a Saturday in June, is a one day exploration into the teaching formats, academic and physical demands, and dexterity requirements that the Veterinary Technology student can expect to encounter on a daily basis in this two-year program.

PREREQUISITE COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Both BIOL 15 (Bioscience) and CHEM 10 (Concepts of Chemistry) or their college level equivalent MUST be completed with a grade of C or better PRIOR to submission of an application for enrollment in the Veterinary Technology Program. Should the number of qualified applicants exceed the number of available spaces in the class, a wait list process will be used to establish priority.

BIO 15-BIOSCIENCE (4 units)

Introduction to basic biological principles; includes cellular and organismal structure, energetics, control, physiology, genetics, evolution and environmental interactions.

CHEM 10-CONCEPTS OF CHEMISTRY (3 units)

Survey of basic concepts of Chemistry; designed for those desiring an introduction to the language of Chemistry and for those who need reinforcement of their basic chemistry knowledge.

NOTE:

Due to the demanding nature of the program, it is recommended that the prospective student complete as many as possible of the general science and general education courses (in addition to the two mandatory courses listed above) required for the Associate in Science Degree prior to admission to the Veterinary Technology Program.

PROGRAM CURRICULUM

FALL, FIRST SEMESTER

VT1-INTRODUCTION TO VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY (4 units)

Overview of veterinary technology as a profession; includes animal identification, government regulations, animal husbandry and restraint, nutrition, general health and zoonosis of disease.

VT55-VETERINARY MEDICAL PRINCIPLES (2 units)

Study of medical terms used in veterinary medicine; application of terms and medical practices used by the veterinary technician.

**COOP ED OCCUPATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE
(2 units)**

Coordination of on-the-job learning with college major to improve employment skills and career goals through supervised employment. Prerequisite: required enrollment in a minimum of seven units each semester, which may include this course.

**MATH 52-INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA
(4 units)**

Fundamental operations of algebra, linear and quadratic equations and inequalities: exponents and polynomials; rational expressions; radicals and fractional exponents; graph of a straight line; linear equations; conic sections; exponential and logarithmic functions. Prerequisite: Mathematics 50 or equivalent with grade of "C" or better.

GEN ED-SEE A.S. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The student must decide the choice of general education courses after conferring with the catalog and counselor for those courses, which will satisfy Yuba College graduation requirements.

SPRING, SECOND SEMESTER

VT2-ANIMAL ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY (4 units)

Structural aspects and normal functions of principle systems of various animal species. Prerequisite: Bio 15, VT1

**VT3-VETERINARY ANESTHESIA & PHARMACOLOGY
(3 units)**

Concepts of veterinary anesthesia and pharmacology; physiological impact of anesthesia on the body; pharmacokinetics in animals. Prerequisite: Bio 15

**BCA15-BUSINESS COMPUTER APPLICATIONS
(3 units)**

Develop a beginning/intermediate level of skills using the Microsoft Office Professional Edition Program. Basic features of Word, Excel, Access and Power Point are covered along with how to create simple integrated office documents. No prior experience is required. NOTE: Student may elect to take Com Sci 10L instead of Gen Bus 15.

**ENGLISH 1A-READING AND COMPOSITION
(4 units)**

Development of critical skills and writing narrative, descriptive, expository and argumentative prose. Prerequisite: passing score on Placement Examination or English 51 or 51L with grade of "C" or higher.

**COOP ED OCCUPATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE
(2 units)**

Coordination of on-the-job learning with college major to improve employment skills and career goals through supervised employment. Prerequisite: required enrollment in a minimum of seven units each semester, which may include this course.

GEN ED-SEE A.S. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The student must decide the choice of general education courses after conferring with the catalog and counselor for those courses, which will satisfy Yuba College graduation requirements.

FALL, THIRD SEMESTER

VT53A-BASIC VETERINARY SCIENCE

(5 units)

Clinical laboratory testing, anesthesia, surgery, sterilization of instruments, drug administration and use, and veterinary dentistry. Prerequisite: VT1, VT2

BIO 6-INTRODUCTORY BACTERIOLOGY AND MICROBIOLOGY

(4 units)

History, structure, metabolism, genetics and ecology of microscopic life forms, their relationship to disease, immunology, agriculture and industry; laboratory emphasizes the bacteria in developing techniques for detection, isolation and identification of both harmless and pathogenic forms. Prerequisite: Bio 1 or Bio 15

COOP ED OCCUPATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

(2 units)

Coordination of on-the-job learning with college major to improve employment skills and career goals through supervised employment. Prerequisite: required enrollment in a minimum of seven units each semester, which may include this course.

GEN ED-SEE A.S. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The student must decide the choice of general education courses after conferring with the catalog and counselor for those courses, which will satisfy Yuba College graduation requirements.

SPRING, FOURTH SEMESTER

VT53B-BASIC VETERINARY SCIENCE

(5 units)

Clinical laboratory testing, anesthesia, surgery, cardiology, pharmacology, ophthalmology, radiology, fluid therapy, reptile/avian medicine. Prerequisite: VT 53A

VT54-ANIMAL HEALTH AND SANITATION

(3 units)

Animal health and disease management, including both large and small animals; emphasis on disease prevention and sanitation. Prerequisite: Bio 15

COOP ED OCCUPATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

(2 units)

Coordination of on-the-job learning with college major to improve employment skills and career goals through supervised employment. Prerequisite: required enrollment in a minimum of seven units each semester, which may include this course.

GEN ED-SEE A.S. DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

The student must decide the choice of general education courses after conferring with the catalog and counselor for those courses, which will satisfy Yuba College graduation requirements. If the student plans to transfer to a four year institution they should work closely with their counselor in selecting their general education and general science coursework.

RECOMMENDED COURSES

The following courses are not required for graduation from the Veterinary Technology Program however it is highly recommended that the student take both if at all possible:

AG 44 Horse Production (3 units) and Ag 45 Principles of Animal Science (3 units)

GENERAL INFORMATION

The courses listed must be completed in sequence, in the indicated semester with a grade of "C" or better. In addition to the above listed courses, the college has other requirements, which must be fulfilled in order to graduate. The student should check with the Yuba College Catalog and confer with Program staff and college counselors for assistance.

If Program enrollment exceeds capacity, Yuba College reserves the right to limit the enrollment in the second semester of the program. Only those students who have completed all the required classes (i.e., fulfilled all prerequisites) will be allowed to continue to the next level of coursework.

PROGRAM PROGRESSION AND TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

The Veterinary Technology Program is a full-time course of study with each class building on preceding veterinary technology courses therefore all required courses must be taken in the order listed. All classes will be taught at the Yuba College campus in Marysville although some may be offered on line via the Internet. Veterinary facilities in several counties are used for the clinical rotation portion of the program, requiring some degree of travel of all students while pursuing their veterinary technology education.

PROGRAM STANDING & GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of the student to keep track, with the assistance of his/her counselor, of their individual progress in completing the graduation requirements of the college. These requirements are listed in the college catalog; frequent referral to this list in conjunction with regular meetings with the college counseling staff is *strongly* recommended to ensure graduation in a timely manner.

REGIONAL OCCUPATION PROGRAMS

Articulation agreements have been established between Butte and Nevada County ROP programs in which those students who successfully complete these programs and pass an equivalency test are able to transfer into the Yuba College Veterinary Technology Program with advanced standing. Articulated students should check with the 2 + 2 office to ensure all appropriate paperwork has been submitted. *Effective Fall 1999, ROP students must complete VT2 prior to enrollment in VT 53A.

GENERAL INFORMATION

COSTS

In addition to the expenses of regularly enrolled students (living costs, activity fees, books, tuition, etc.), Veterinary Technology students have the additional expenses of uniforms, drug screening, and personal equipment such as stethoscopes. Veterinary Technology students are eligible for grants and loans available to any Yuba College student meeting the criteria and should regularly consult with the Financial Aid office for specific eligibility requirements.

COMPUTER POLICY

Students are required to complete many assignments and testing using computers. Students will need an e-mail address that they check daily in order to receive important course information. Additionally veterinary facilities have computerized records and billing procedures therefore it is strongly recommended that students entering the Veterinary Technology program be computer literate and have access to a reliable internet connection.

SMOKING

No smoking is allowed in the classrooms or laboratories and Sections 7596-7598 of the Government Code prohibits smoking within 20 feet of main entrances, exits, and operable

windows of any building owned, leased, and occupied by the California community colleges. Smoking is also prohibited at the off campus work experience locations.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

On college property, use, possession, sale or distribution of dangerous drugs, restricted drugs, or narcotics as those terms are used in California statutes, or the use, possession, sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages will be sanctioned by the College. For the purposes of this rule, expulsion is the most severe sanction, followed by suspension, probation, and written and verbal reprimands. A warning is not a sanction.

All incoming (those enrolled in Vet Tech 1) students will be required to undergo mandatory drug testing as a condition of admission. Once admitted, if there is a legitimate belief, based upon reasonable suspicion, that a student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol or has used drugs or alcohol during program activities, (to include field trips and off-campus work experience) the student shall be directed to undergo an immediate drug and alcohol test, at the student's expense. Positive testing will result in the student being referred to the appropriate disciplinary authority for disciplinary proceedings pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.

Veterinary Technician students or potential students should be advised that contained in the California Veterinary Practice Act is a provision for the revocation and suspension of registration of any VT (or applicant) on the following grounds:

- A. Employment of fraud, misrepresentation or deception in obtaining registration.
- B. Conviction of a crime substantially related to the qualifications, functions and duties of a veterinary technician.
- C. Chronic inebriety or habitual use of drugs.
- D. Having professional connection with or lending one's name to any illegal practitioner of veterinary medicine and the various branches thereof.
- E. Violating or attempts to violate, directly or indirectly, or assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.

PARKING

Students must park in those areas designated for student parking. Parking is by permit only with permits being obtained from the campus police. When it is necessary to bring an animal to the classroom facility the animal should be on a leash or confined to a carrier and walked back to the classroom. Unauthorized parking for the purpose of dropping off or picking up animals will result in a ticket or possible tow of your vehicle.

COUNSELING

Counseling services are available both day and evening hours to assist students. It is recommended that meetings with a college guidance counselor occur at least once each semester so that the student can ascertain if he or she is on track for graduation. Students are welcome to make an appointment with the staff members of the VT Program should any additional help in class selection be required.

TUTORING

Tutoring is available, by appointment, at the Learning Skills Center located in the library for nearly all courses taught on campus. Students requiring assistance in veterinary technology courses are encouraged to participate in cooperative student groups between the first and second year students.

It is highly recommended that students seek counseling and/or tutoring assistance whenever personal or academic problems arise before the problems seem insurmountable and adversely affect performance.

DISABLED STUDENT PROGRAM & SERVICES

Yuba College DSPS Resource Center is designed to equalize vocational and educational opportunities for students with physical limitations and/or learning disabilities. Students should register early in the semester with the DSPS program as the coordination of services does take extra time.

OFFICE HOURS

Office hours are posted outside each instructor's office or the student may request an appointment with the instructor at a time mutually agreed upon. E-mail is an excellent way to communicate with faculty and staff of the college. All e-mail addresses for Yuba College staff are formulated by adding the first letter of their first name to the first seven letters of their last name followed by " .yccd.edu "

TRANSPORTATION, ROOM AND BOARD

A source of reliable transportation is the responsibility of each student. Students must be independently mobile to avail themselves of all the required learning experiences and to ensure punctuality for all classes and work experience locations to which you are assigned.

Room and board is the responsibility of each student; arrangements should be made in advance to ensure housing needs are met.

CHILD CARE

Childcare arrangements may be necessary to accommodate varying class and work experience hours and are the responsibility of the student.

STUDENT ORGANIZATION

The Yuba College Vet Tech Club is very active through the school year with both academic and social projects. It is an enjoyable and vital part of the educational process for the student to understand the sense of community and purpose professional organizations provide in support of their career.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

A student may file a complaint under either the Code of Conduct for Students or the Complaint Procedure for Yuba Community College District. These policies are well outlined in the Yuba College Catalog, the Student Handbook (given out at registration) and on the college website www.yccd.edu

A student who has a complaint related to any aspect of the veterinary technology program must initiate and pursue the complaint in accordance with the Yuba College Grievance Procedure: If the occurrence involves an instructor the student should:

1. First meet with the instructor and attempt to resolve the issue with that instructor.
2. If the issue is not resolved the complainant should schedule an appointment with the Director of the Veterinary Technology Program to explore the matter further. In the event that the matter is not resolved by this measure then step #3 should be followed.
3. The student should make an appointment to meet with the Dean of the department in which the instructor works to discuss the complaint.
4. In the event that informal attempts to resolve the complaint through the supervisor of the staff person are unsuccessful, the student may file a formal, written complaint. The supervisor must respond to the formal complaint within 30 working days.

5. If the remedy stated in the reply to the written formal complaint is objectionable to the student, he or she may send objections in written form to the Superintendent/President of Yuba College.

For more information not specifically dealt with in this handbook please check with the College catalog, your counselor, the program staff or an instructor.

"Yuba College does not discriminate against students or employees on the basis of race, color, sex, handicap, age, religious creed, ancestry or national origin, nor does it tolerate sexual harassment."

POLICIES & PROCEDURES OF THE VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

ATTENDANCE

Every student is required to attend class to the satisfaction of the instructor to ensure that the coursework is being performed in a systematic manner. Class material is offered in a progressing, sequential manner with a vast amount of information offered and increasingly complex skills to be learned in a very short time. The student must be present to learn and practice these skills and the faculty must have adequate time to evaluate the student's performance. Excellent animal health care is provided when technicians work together as a team; regular attendance is an indicator of the student's future success in the classic veterinary hospital setting.

Roll is taken on the hour at the beginning of every veterinary technology class; any student who is not present for roll call will be marked absent for that class (including the lab portion of that class).

A student is allowed a maximum of three (3) absences. A fourth (4th) absence will result in the lowering, by one full grade, the student's final class grade. With the accumulation of five (5) absences the student will be dropped from the class. It is the responsibility of the student to fulfill the requirements of the course which includes attendance, therefore the instructor is under no obligation to warn the student prior to filing a drop card.

BEHAVIOR

All students will be held to a standard of behavior as described in the Yuba College Student Code of Conduct. It is strongly advised that all students make themselves familiar with the material contained in this code (www.yccd.edu/conduct.html) as well as the policies listed in the College Catalog section: Academic Regulations and Information (www.yccd.edu/catalog/0607/5.pdf)

ASSIGNMENT AND EXAM POLICY

Missed assignments are the responsibility of the student and must be made up. Assignments are due on the date given in class (or listed on the class schedule) and will not be accepted after that date without prior agreement from the instructor. Exam dates are given for the semester on the class schedule and the students will be reminded as time approaches for each test. Exams may not be made up unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. (Note: lab exams will only be given on the scheduled date due to the time, sample viability and equipment intensive nature of these type of tests).

GRADING POLICY

The semester grade will be based on a variety of factors depending on which level of the program you are currently in. All courses are graded on the basis of scores achieved on exams, written/oral assignments, performance assignments, attendance, and participation. The student must attain at least a grade of "C" or better in all veterinary technology courses and their pre/co-

requisites in order to continue in the program. Additionally, the instructor reserves the right to drop a student whose academic standing in any veterinary technology class is consistently below the "C" level.

OCCUPATIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

As a part of the required curriculum the student must obtain a *minimum* of 500 hours work experience under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian and/or registered veterinary technician. In order to count hours worked as a part of Program requirements, the student must be actively enrolled in the work experience class and submit monthly timesheets signed by the on-site supervisor. The student may enroll in the Occupational Work Experience class more than once in order to achieve the required number of hours AND may obtain more than 500 hours work experience is desired. Information and the necessary forms may be obtained from the Cooperative Work Experience Office located in room 511.

At the work site, the student will be under the supervision of the veterinarian and/or veterinary technician and is bound by the same regulations concerning job tasks as apply in the classroom. The supervising veterinarian is the ultimate authority in establishing what tasks the student will perform at the job site.

STATE BOARD EXAM

The California State Department of Consumer Affairs Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine is the agency, which offers the Registered Veterinary Technician licensing exam. It is the responsibility of the student to fulfill the eligibility requirements put in place by this Board for this exam as well as obtaining and submitting all materials requested by the Board in a complete and timely manner.

The exam is offered in computer format at specially licensed testing facilities throughout the State of California. Application forms as well as other information regarding the veterinary technician may be obtained directly from the Board:

Board of Examiners in Veterinary Medicine
RVT Examining Committee
1420 Howe Ave. Suite 6
Sacramento, CA 95825
<http://www.vmb.ca.gov>

NATIONAL BOARD EXAM

Outside California the licensing exam is the Veterinary Technician National Board Exam. This exam is used in states *other than California* as one requirement for licensure. If a student is contemplating a move out of California he/she may consider taking this exam. Again, this exam is **NOT** honored in the State of California and the student should contact the veterinary medical board of the state in which he/she will be relocating to obtain information of licensure requirements for that state. More information regarding this test, administration dates, locations and cost may be found at www.aavsb.org

DRESS REGULATIONS

Yuba College Veterinary Technology students are expected to demonstrate maturity by exercising good judgment and taste in attire for attendance in program classes and clinical experiences. Every individual is required to wear shoes in all Campus buildings. Instructors in charge of field trips (including work experience situations) have the authority to enforce additional dress regulations, which they feel are required for the occasion.

The Veterinary Technology Program students are required to wear their hair securely tied back off the face and shoulders and to purchase at least one set of navy blue scrubs (top and bottom). These navy blue scrubs are to be worn to all vet tech classes and work experience sites. Student ID badges are to be purchased as well, and are to be worn to all vet tech classes and at the off-campus work sites. Details regarding where to purchase the required items will be given in class.

ANIMAL POLICY & CLINICAL SERVICES

The Veterinary Technology Program will perform clinical services on the pet animals of the following individuals **ONLY**: Yuba College faculty, Yuba College staff and Yuba College Veterinary Technology Students properly enrolled in one or more vet tech class. The services are limited in scope, will be conducted on an appointment basis only, and appointments will be scheduled in such a manner as to facilitate instruction.

All animals brought on to campus are to be appropriately restrained via the use of a leash or pet carrier. Animals on campus are the responsibility of the individual bringing them and students are not to bring animals with them to school unless they have an appointment and the animal is appropriately restrained.

All fee-based services are to be paid at completion of said service; all payments are to be made to the Yuba College cashier. The proceeds of these services are deposited into the Veterinary Technology Club Fund and are used to buy equipment for the program and/or to finance seminars, field trips or other activities as approved by the Club. The Program reserves the right to refuse service to anyone who may, in the judgment of the Program Director, represent a hindrance or hazard to the animal patients, the students and staff of the Program, or to the instructional process.

The purpose of the Program is to offer a quality education to the student therefore the clinical activities conducted on campus must and will be strictly controlled. The acceptance of pet animals for clinical work is to be viewed as an aid to instruction for the veterinary technology students; this service is not offered as, nor should it be used as, a replacement for the services offered by a fully staffed, fully equipped veterinary hospital.

Information on Biomedical and Injury Risks for Students Yuba College Veterinary Technology Program

All students enrolling in the veterinary technology program must be given the following information to read. As a condition of enrollment each student must sign the attached waivers indicating that they have read and understood the material presented herein.

- 1) The program to which you are entering has associated with it specific hazards and risks due to the types of equipment utilized and the interaction with live animals. Injury can occur unexpectedly, and accidentally, when working with live animals, whether they are dogs, cats, laboratory animals, farm animals, horses or exotic animal species.
- 2) It is the responsibility of the student to notify your academic advisor and the Vet Tech Program Director if you believe you are pregnant **and/or** have a medical condition that would increase your risk of contracting a zoonotic disease or sustaining any injury from anesthetic gases, x-ray radiation, chemical exposure or the handling of animal patients.
- 3) It will be up to the Program Director to discuss the issue with you and determine how best to proceed for your safety.
- 4) Pre-exposure rabies vaccination is highly recommended for each student entering the program. It will be up to the students to arrange for and obtain this vaccination at their own expense.

RISKS INVOLVED IN VETERINARY MEDICINE INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

Teratogens (e.g. disinfectants, cleaning compounds)

Cytotoxic compounds (e.g. cancer drugs)

Ionizing radiation (x-rays)

Anesthetic gases

Hormonal agents (e.g. corticosteroids)

Physical injury (e.g. bites, scratches, kicks)

Infectious disease organisms (e.g. leptospirosis, rabies, toxoplasmosis, ringworm, internal parasites)

Pregnancy

The individual is advised as to the following, if a risk is identified depending on their stage of pregnancy:

- 1) Option of a leave of absence with a return to the Program after the pregnancy is over.
- 2) Option of accommodations to decrease risk to fetus and mother by exposure to disease, chemicals, or radiation (IF POSSIBLE).
- 3) Individual must sign a waiver, if they opt to remain in the course stating that they understand the risks involved. The individual must also sign a waiver that they will notify their physician that they are assuming said risks.
- 4) Objectives of a course will not be waived for a pregnant student but reasonable effort can be made to accommodate a student's specific needs.

Rabies

Questions about rabies:

1. As a veterinary technology student at Yuba College, should I be vaccinated for rabies?

Answer: It is highly recommended that all veterinary technology students be vaccinated for rabies. The Center for Disease Control considers individuals that work with animals from a rabies endemic region in the "frequent" exposure risk category. The CDC recommends these individuals obtain the primary course of rabies vaccination with serologic monitoring and /or booster vaccination every two years.

2. If I am exposed to rabies, what is the treatment?

Answer: For **vaccinated individuals**, the wound is immediately and thoroughly cleansed with soap and water, then 2 doses of rabies vaccine are given, one is given immediately, the other is given three days later.

For **non-vaccinated individuals**, the wound is immediately and thoroughly cleaned with soap and water. The area around the wound is injected with Human Rabies Immune Globulin (HRIG), then 5 doses of rabies vaccine are given after the exposure on days 0, 3, 7, 14, and 28.

As one can see, pre-exposure vaccination reduces the number of injections the patient would receive and does help to protect against possible unknown exposure to the rabies virus. The injection of HRIG around the bite wound is painful and could be avoided by having pre-exposure vaccination prophylaxis.

3. Which regimen is more effective in preventing rabies, pre-exposure vaccination or the full series of post-exposure injections?

Answer: Both approaches are effective in preventing rabies infection. Both require injections after exposure. The main benefit of pre-exposure vaccination is that some immunity has been already mounted if you are unknowingly exposed to a rabid animal.

The following information on rabies pre and post exposure vaccination is taken from the Center for Disease Control and further explains the risks and benefits of rabies vaccination prophylaxis.

Information on Rabies Pre-exposure Vaccination

Source: Centers for Disease Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvrd/rabies/prevention&control/preventi.htm>

Rabies vaccine and immune globulin

There is no treatment for rabies after symptoms of the disease appear. However, two decades ago scientists developed an extremely effective new rabies vaccine regimen that provides immunity to rabies when administered after an exposure (post-exposure prophylaxis) or for protection before an exposure occurs (pre-exposure prophylaxis). Although rabies among humans is rare in the United States, every year an estimated 18,000 people receive rabies pre-exposure prophylaxis and an additional 40,000 receive post-exposure prophylaxis.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis

Pre-exposure vaccination is recommended for persons in high-risk groups, such as veterinarians, animal handlers, and certain laboratory workers. Other persons whose activities bring them into frequent contact with rabies virus or potentially rabid bats, raccoons, skunks, cats, dogs, or other species at risk of having rabies should also be considered for pre-exposure prophylaxis. In addition, international travelers likely to come in contact with animals in areas of enzootic dog rabies, which lack immediate access to appropriate medical care, including biologics, should be considered for pre-exposure prophylaxis. (For more information about pre-exposure prophylaxis, see [Human Rabies Prevention - United States, 1999 Recommendations of the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee \(ACIP\).](#))

People who work with live rabies virus in research laboratories or vaccine production facilities are at the highest risk of inapparent exposures. Such persons should have a serum (blood) sample tested for antibody every 6 months and receive booster vaccine, when necessary. Routine pre-exposure prophylaxis for other situations may generally not be indicated.

Purpose of pre-exposure prophylaxis

Pre-exposure prophylaxis is given for several reasons. First, although pre-exposure vaccination does not eliminate the need for additional medical attention after a rabies exposure, it simplifies therapy by eliminating the need for human rabies immune globulin (HRIG) and decreasing the number of vaccine doses needed – a point of particular importance for persons at high risk of being exposed to rabies in areas where immunizing products may not be available, and it minimizes adverse reactions to multiple doses of vaccine. Second, it may enhance immunity in persons whose post-exposure therapy might be delayed. Finally, it may provide protection to persons with inapparent exposures to rabies.

Pre-exposure prophylaxis regimen

Pre-exposure prophylaxis consists of three doses of rabies vaccine given on days 0, 7, and 21 or 28.

Post-exposure prophylaxis

Post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) is indicated for persons possibly exposed to a rabid animal. Possible exposures include animal bites, or mucous membrane contamination with infectious tissue, such as saliva. {For more information on types of exposures, see [Human Rabies Prevention - United States, 1999 Recommendations of the Immunization Practices Advisory Committee \(ACIP\).](#)} PEP should begin as soon as possible after an exposure. There have been no

vaccine failures in the United States (i.e. someone developed rabies) when PEP was given promptly and appropriately after an exposure.

Administration of rabies PEP is a medical urgency, not a medical emergency. Physicians should evaluate each possible exposure to rabies and as necessary consult with local or state public health officials regarding the need for rabies prophylaxis.

Post exposure prophylaxis regimen

In the United States, PEP consists of a regimen of one dose of immune globulin and five doses of rabies vaccine over a 28-day period. Rabies immune globulin and the first dose of rabies vaccine should be given as soon as possible after exposure. Additional doses of rabies vaccine should be given on days 3, 7, 14, and 28 after the first vaccination. Current vaccines are relatively painless and are given in your arm, like a flu or tetanus vaccine.

GENERAL WAIVER

STUDENT

I, _____ (name of individual), a (*STUDENT*/at Yuba College, do agree to the following:

1. I have read and understood the Yuba College Veterinary Technology Program Handbook. My signature below signifies my understanding that compliance with these procedures and policies is required for my continued enrollment in this program.
2. That I have read and fully understand the attached 'Policies and Protocols' in regard to any risks that I may incur while participating in a course or working at Yuba College in the Veterinary Technology Program
3. That I understand these risks may not only affect myself but any unborn child, or in some cases other family members.
4. That I agree to release and indemnify the Veterinary Technology Program, Yuba College, its Board Members, Trustees, Officers, Administrators, Employees, and Agents against any claims of personal or bodily injury to myself, my unborn fetus (where appropriate), or my family that occur as part of my coursework or job.

INDIVIDUAL NAME (print)

WITNESS NAME (print)
(Yuba College Official)

INDIVIDUAL NAME (signature)

WITNESS NAME (signature)
(Yuba College Official)

DATE

DATE

RABIES WAIVER

I _____ (name of individual), a (*STUDENT*/at Yuba College, have read the material provided and understand that due to my occupational exposure to animals, I may be at risk of exposure to rabies infection. After reading this material and in consultation with my physician, I **decline** to under go pre-exposure rabies prophylactic vaccination at this time.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature (if student is under 18)

Date

I, _____ (name of individual), a (*STUDENT*/at Yuba College, **have received pre-exposure rabies vaccination**. The dates the vaccinations were administered were:

_____, _____, and _____.

Student Signature

Date