



### **PARTICIPATION IN RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAM**

The College of Medicine offers a voluntary, pre-exposure rabies vaccination program for all personnel handling, or otherwise exposed to, dogs, cats or nonhuman primate species in the normal course of their employment. This program includes three (3) injections over a 28 day period. Appointments for both physical examination and rabies vaccinations are to be made by the Principal Investigator/Supervisor. There will be no charge to the employee for these appointments.

Rabies is one of the oldest and deadliest diseases known to man. It is caused by the rabies virus, a member of the rhabdovirus family. Most mammals are susceptible to the virus and most mammals can transmit the virus to man. Any wild or random source animal must be considered a possible source of rabies infection, although wild rodents and rabbits are generally not known to be infected. Rabies is generally transmitted by the saliva of an infected animal, usually introduced by a bite or scratch wound. However, infection has occurred by contact with tissue from a rabid animal and through inhalation of aerosolized virus.

Although the pre-exposure rabies vaccination program is considered safe, possible side effects may occur. Pain, redness, swelling, or itching at the injection site are the most common side effects. More serious side effects are possible but are very rare.

- YES**, I would like to participate in the pre-exposure rabies vaccination program.
- NO**, I have elected not to participate in the pre-exposure rabies vaccination program at this time.
- I have already been vaccinated against rabies on or about \_\_\_\_\_.

Employee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_