

APPENDIX 2

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM RABIES POLICY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Delgado Community College Veterinary Technology Program

RABIES VACCINATION INFORMATION, CONSENT & WAIVER FORM

Rabies is a preventable viral disease of mammals often transmitted through the bite of a rabid animal. The rabies virus infects the central nervous system, ultimately causing disease in the brain and, when untreated, death. Activities which bring an individual into contact with wild or domestic animals increase the probability of contacting rabies; thus, preexposure vaccination is recommended. The Delgado Community College Veterinary Technology Program Rabies Vaccination Policy was designed to protect persons in the Program from exposure to rabies. The following information summarizes the health risk to humans posed by rabies.

Rabies virus (rhabdovirus) can infect almost any mammal. The source of infection to people is an infected animal. The virus is shed in saliva 1 – 14 days before clinical symptoms develop. Any random-source (animal with an unknown clinical history) or wild animal exhibiting central nervous system signs that are progressive should be considered suspect for rabies. Transmission is through direct contact with saliva, mucus membranes or blood, i.e., bite or saliva on an open wound. The incubation period is from 2 – 8 weeks or even longer. Symptoms are pain at the site of the bite followed by numbness. The skin becomes quite sensitive to temperature changes and there are laryngeal spasms. Muscle spasms and extreme excitability are present and convulsions occur. There is no treatment for rabies once it develops.

Rabies Vaccination Consent

I understand that my position as a student in the Veterinary Technology Program requires that I be vaccinated against rabies at my own expense and I elect to be vaccinated against rabies.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____