**Lone Star College – Tomball**

**Veterinary Technology Program**

**Rabies Vaccination Policy**

Lone Star College - Tomball Veterinary Technology Program is a fully accredited program as granted by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA). One advantage to this program is the numerous opportunities students have for hands-on care and learning using a variety of animals ranging from exotics to farm and small animals. Students are allowed access to and have many encounters with animals throughout their time in the Program.

As of January 1, 2022, regulatory standards were set forth by the AVMA in adherence to the recommendations set forth by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) regarding pre-exposure Rabies vaccination:

~~“~~*The majority of people in the* *United States have a low risk of coming in contact with the rabies virus. However, a small subset has a higher level of risk, such as those who work directly with animals that could have rabies, or those who travel to parts of the* *world where rabies is common and access to medical care is limited. These people should receive rabies preexposure* *prophylaxis (PrEP), a series of 2 rabies vaccine doses (Day 0 and Day 7) given before coming into contact* *with any animals at risk of carrying the rabies virus.”*  [CDC Rabies Prevention/Prexposure Vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/prevention/pre-exposure_vaccinations.html%20/%E2%80%9C)

In following the above standard, and after reviewing the risk of rabies exposure in our area as well as statewide, it has been determined rabies vaccinations will be mandatory for ALL students accepted into the Lone Star College – Tomball Veterinary Technology Program, unless an exemption applies. Exemptions to vaccination may include health reasons or reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs. Any student wishing to exempt the vaccination must follow the exemption policy as lined out in the Immunization Exemption Waiver. A comprehensive Rabies Mitigation Plan has been developed to address such situations.

The best way for students to comply with the mandate is to receive the vaccine series through their regular health care provider. By doing so, health insurance is *more likely* to cover the cost of vaccinations once explained the necessity for enrollment in the program. If the student does not have health insurance, Rabies vaccines can be acquired through Medical Travel/Vaccination Clinics, as those in the Kelsey-Seybold network and other facilities. There are some Walgreens Pharmacies and other stand-alone pharmacies that can order and provide the vaccine as well.

For more information on Rabies please visit:

Center for Disease Control:

<https://www.cdc.gov/rabies/about.html#:~:text=Rabies%20is%20a%20preventable%20viral,in%20the%20brain%20and%20death>.

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

Texas Department of State Health Services:

<https://www.dshs.texas.gov/rabies>

World Health Organization:

<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/rabies>

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Student Name Student Signature Date