Student Health Care Center
Office of the Director

1 Fletcher Drive
PO Box 117500
Gainesville, FL 32611-7500
Phone: 352-392-1161 x 4220
Fax: 352-392-9625

May 1, 2007

Dear New University of Florida Veterinary Medicine Student:

Congratulations on your acceptance into the Veterinary Medicine Program at UF. I hope that you will find your education and training experience at UF to be both challenging and exciting.

My job is to oversee the various medical monitoring programs that comprise UF's Occupational Medicine Department which is housed within the SHCC. The Animal Contact Program is one such program that directly affects you. As a Vet Med student, your animal contact duties and experiences make this medical monitoring program advisable, necessary, and required. Via this medical evaluation process, both UF and the College of Veterinary Medicine hope to minimize any health risks to you and to insure that you can safely perform the essential functions necessary for you to complete your education and training as a veterinary student.

The Animal Contact Health Assessment packet must be completed by you and returned in the enclosed self addressed envelope by July 1st. Please make sure to print your name and UF ID# legibly on each page.

Section 1: Mandatory Immunization Health History Form: Have this immunization history completed by your college's Student Health Services, local Health Department or private MD. Do not complete this form yourself. Go to http://shcc.ufl.edu/medical/immune.shtml#vetmed for more specific information/directions. In addition to what is required by the University of Florida, as part of the Animal Contact Health Assessment you will be required to have:

- Tetanus Immunization within the past 5 years – Tdap is now the standard of care and protects for Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis.
- Rabies Immunization Series or Positive Titer.
- Serum Banking.
- TB Screening – TB skin test by PPD must be within 6 months of Orientation. If you have had a positive PPD in the past, you must submit a report of a chest x-ray current within the last year.

These will all be made available to you during your Vet Med Orientation in August. There will be a charge for these required immunizations/tests. The rabies vaccinations may cause muscle soreness and low grade fevers. For this reason, you may want to consider getting these three (3) injections from your private MD or local health department over the summer. If you decide to get any of these vaccinations done on your own before arriving at UF in August, be sure to attach the official clinic/MD documentation of dates you received the required immunizations or bring the documentation to the orientation clinic on August 13, 2007.

Section 2: Authorization to Use or Disclose Protected Health Information: Your signature on this form allows Student Health to share "duty status" and dates of immunizations with your College under the HIPAA privacy rules. Your medical history information however is protected and will not be shared without your express permission.

Section 3: Risk Assessment for Animal Contact, Directions and Health Questionnaire: The first 2 pages include directions about the Animal Contact Health Assessment, who to send the packet to, and how your University student account will be billed. A two-page health questionnaire follows and includes a place to document if you have had Rabies vaccination, dates of the series, and laboratory titer information. Remember, you will have an opportunity to receive the required immunizations, including the Rabies series during your Vet Med student orientation in August.

A self addressed envelope has also been included for you to send your completed forms back to UF for processing.

Please note that specific medical history information is kept confidential and will not be shared with your College. Based on information you provide, determination may be made that you need a physical exam as follow up to your medical history. Should this be the case, you will be notified and an appointment scheduled here at the SHCC for that exam.

Any required immunizations and laboratory work will be offered to all new students during the scheduled DVM Orientation in August. Again, each student will be required to have:

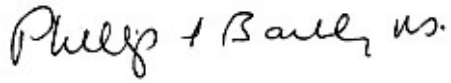
- Tetanus Immunization within the past 5 years – Tdap is now the standard of care and protects for Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis.
- Rabies Immunization Series or Positive Titer.
- Serum Banking.
- TB Screening – TB skin test by PPD must be within 6 months of Orientation. If you have had a positive PPD in the past, you must submit a report of a chest x-ray current within the last year.

Students will be charged for these services and the charges billed to their UF student account.

Please complete all parts of this health assessment packet by July 1st and return completed forms to SHCC in the enclosed self addressed envelope. If you have any questions about this health assessment process or what is required for you to participate in the DVM program, please feel free to contact Diane Pecora, RN Specialist at 352-392-1161 ext 1-4259.

Once again, congratulations and welcome to the University of Florida.

Sincerely,



Phillip Barkley, M.D.
Director, Student Health Care Center
Clinical Associate Professor and Director, Department of Community Health and Family Medicine