



# COMPLIANCE ON HEALTH STANDARDS OF THE ANIMAL BITE CENTER IN TARLAC CITY

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**Abstract:** This study aimed to evaluate the compliance of the Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City when it comes to health standards. The paper included the evaluated level of compliance on health standards, identified problems faced by the center, action plan, and the implications of the study on the field of Public Administration. Given the degree matter's relevance to public health and safety, a thorough study into the management of animal bites becomes imperative. Through this study, the researcher sought to contribute valuable insights that could enhance the overall effectiveness of public health administration and management and in addressing problems related to animal bites. On the other hand, the researcher utilized the quantitative descriptive design and a random sampling to gather data and to fully satisfy the purpose of the study. A total of one hundred ten (110) respondents took part in this study including victim clientele and personnels in the Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City. Findings revealed that compliance on health standards of the Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City under the policies and guidelines got the highest grand mean of 4.40 and was evaluated as Often Complied. Whilst the quality services got the lowest grand mean of 3.43 and was evaluated as Sometimes Complied by the respondents. The overall rating obtained a grand mean of 4.02 and evaluated as Often Complied.

## I. INTRODUCTION

According to the findings that were published by Schoenbrunner et al. (2021), researchers have discovered that animal bites are extremely common all over the world. It is inevitable that there will be a wide variety of diseases as long as there is a wide variety of animal species. Each disease will pose its own unique set of dangers and will require its own set of treatment procedures. For the purpose of formulating and putting into action management strategies that are successful, having an in-depth understanding of these ideas is absolutely necessary. In addition, Munibullah et al. (2021) proposed that the problem of animal bite wounds has been a subject of substantial concern in regard to human health ever since the domestication of wild animals roughly 12,000 years ago. They stated that this has been the case even though the domestication of wild animals was a relatively recent phenomenon. A recent uptick in interest among professionals in the field of global health can be attributed to the alarmingly high number of people who sustain injuries from animal bites. A considerable number of animal bite wounds, reaching to tens of millions per year, are reported by medical professionals every year.

However, some people believed that, even the most minor cuts and punctures, as well as bites from animals, have the potential to become infected and to transfer bacteria to other parts of the body. This is the case even for the least dangerous interactions with animal species. It is imperative to take the necessary precautions after being bitten or scratched by any animal, regardless of whether the animal was a domesticated pet or a wild one. The likelihood of developing an infection following a bite that causes the skin to deteriorate is significantly raised. It is vital for governments and organizations that work in public health to create and implement effective prevention and treatment techniques for animal bites in order to lower the overall frequency of animal bites around the world. This can be accomplished by developing and implementing effective prevention and

treatment strategies for animal bites. This is due to the fact that animal bites can result in major health complications such as infection, tetanus, and even rabies. Meng et al. (2016) states that as a result of this, it is absolutely necessary for these methods to be created and utilized.

Furthermore, according to the other authors, animal bites continue to constitute a severe risk to public health, with an increasing number of humans being hurt each year. This is according to Ali and Ali (2022), who believe that animal bites continue to pose this risk. The most common forms of mammal bites treated in emergency rooms are those caused by dogs, followed by those caused by cats, and then finally those caused by humans.

## I.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The study entitled "Compliance on Health Standards of the Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City" aimed to evaluate and address a series of pertinent problems related to the compliance of the Center.

Specifically, this study sought to answer the following questions:

1. How is the level of Compliance of the Animal Bite Center to Health Standards be described and evaluated in terms of:
  - 1.1 Physical Environment
  - 1.2 Clinical Management
  - 1.3 Quality Services
  - 1.4 Policies and Guidelines
2. What are the problems encountered of the Animal Bite Center in ensuring compliance with health standards?
3. What action plan can be proposed to address these problems?
4. What are the implications of the study to Public Administration?

## II. SCOPE AND DELIMITATION OF THE STUDY

THIS RESEARCH, TITLED "COMPLIANCE ON HEALTH STANDARDS OF THE ANIMAL BITE CENTER IN TARLAC CITY " WERE TO ASSESS AND EVALUATE THE COMPLIANCE OF THE CENTER ITSELF WITH REGARDS TO THE FOLLOWING: (1) PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, (2) CLINICAL MANAGEMENT, (3) QUALITY SERVICES AND (4) POLICIES AND GUIDELINES. THIS STUDY CONCENTRATED EXCLUSIVELY ON THE ANIMAL BITES CENTER LOCATED IN TARLAC CITY AND ITS ADJACENT AREAS, REFRAINING FROM EXPANDING ITS PURVIEW TO ENCOMPASS OTHER REGIONS OR CITIES. THE STUDY PREDOMINANTLY DEPENDED ON DATA OBTAINED FROM THE RECORDS OF THE CENTER, AS WELL AS INTERVIEWS WITH PATIENTS AND SURVEYS ADMINISTERED TO HEALTHCARE 10 PROFESSIONALS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS. THE SCOPE OF THE STUDY WAS LIMITED TO THE ANIMAL BITE CENTER AND DID NOT ENCOMPASS ANIMAL CONTROL AND PREVENTION PROGRAMS BEYOND ITS JURISDICTION. FURTHERMORE, THE STUDY ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPORTANCE OF ZOO NOTIC DISEASES BUT PRIMARILY FOCUSED ON THE MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL BITES AND THE CORRESPONDING RULES AND REGULATIONS PROVIDED BY THE CENTER.

### RESEARCH DESIGN

In order to achieve the aim of the study, the researcher utilized a research methodology referred to as quantitative descriptive design. The researcher employed this research strategy to utilize a sequential model that could be used to identify a plausible explanation for the phenomenon under inquiry. The methodology involved initially collecting quantitative data followed by qualitative data, aiming to enhance the understanding and clarification of pertinent data and information. On the other hand, the researcher chose his respondent through a process known as random sampling. In this type of statistical analysis, each individual in a population was given an equal chance of being selected for inclusion in a sample. This ensured that the results of the study were representative of the entire population. The sample was a subset of the entire population that was chosen in order to make the inquiry and analysis of it more manageable. This subset was known as the sample. When it came to gathering information and making inferences about a population, it was one of the most fundamental ways there was. In addition, the concerns that have been recognized as having an impact on the compliance on health standards of the Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City were discussed as 46 part of the present study. The findings and conclusions of the study provided new insight into these problems.

## Local of the Study

This study was conducted at the Animal Bite Treatment Center, situated within the legislative building of Tarlac City Hall in the City of Tarlac. The province of Tarlac is geographically landlocked, with no access to any bodies of water. Tarlac City, located within the province, functions as its administrative and political center. The urban center encompasses a land area measuring 274.66 square kilometers (106.05 square miles), constituting approximately 9.02% of the overall land area of Tarlac. The city in the province of Tarlac, Philippines, is situated along the banks of the Tarlac River. The geographical separation between Tarlac City and San Fernando, Pampanga measures 58 kilometers (36 miles), while the distance from Tarlac City to Manila spans 124 kilometers (77 miles). Based on the Tarlac Profiles in the 1903 PhilAtlas, it is evident that the city of Tarlac is comprised of a total of 76 barangays.

## Research Instrument

The researchers utilized four distinct tools and instruments in order to effectively collect data for his study. These include a survey questionnaire, an interview guide, documentary analysis, and an observation guide. Survey Questionnaire. The researcher used questionnaires that he handed out to the respondents in order to gain a better understanding of the problems and thoughts along with the compliance to health standards of the Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City. The researcher used the book entitled the National Rabies Prevention and Control Program 48 Manual of Operations of 2012 as the legal basis and in the formulation of the survey questionnaires. The questionnaires included of statements that showed how compliant the animal bite center in Tarlac City in terms of (1) physical environment, (2) clinical management, (3) quality services and (4) policies and guidelines to the health standards. Interview Guide. The researchers have decided to conduct an additional interview with the respondents in order to validate and substantiate the assertions and comments provided by the other respondents in the survey questionnaire. Documentary Analysis. This action was undertaken to substantiate the researcher's analysis and proposed remedies for the challenges and deficiencies in the compliance of the Animal Bite Center. The availability of these records, data, and information was furnish the researcher with a reliable basis upon which to construct their research and subsequent findings. Observation Guide. The researcher travelled to and spend time observing at the Animal Bite Center in order to gain additional knowledge regarding the functioning of the facility at the present time. In addition to this, the researcher watch how services are provided both inside and outside of the center. The data and conclusions drawn from this study substantiated with the use of this observation guide.

## Data Gathering Procedure

The researcher first gathered, then analyzed, and interpreted the data he had obtained. To acquire important information and documents related to the study, the researcher wrote a request for authorization to the City Health Office of Tarlac and 49 submitted it in writing. Additionally, he inquired about the respondents' permission to undertake an inquiry and conduct interviews. A survey questionnaire, interviews, and documentary analysis were all utilized in the research. The researchers obtained approval from the respondents before conducting any interviews and requested permission to take photos with the respondents. Afterward, he reviewed the current state of operations and functioning at the Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City through observation. The researcher ensured that all ethical and legal factors were taken into account before moving forward with the study. In the final step, the researcher explained the findings of the study in a manner that was both clear and thorough. Data Analysis Before beginning his work, the researcher gathered data, which he can then assembled, collated, and organized into tables. Because of this, individuals had the ability to communicate and demonstrate the results of his research in a manner that was intriguing and interesting. The aforementioned data were analyzed using the statistical procedures that followed. In order to know and conduct an evaluation of the level of compliance to health standards of the Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City, weighted means were also calculated and then interpreted with reference to the scales that had been provided, the descriptive equivalents that corresponded to those ranges, as well as the definition and importance of rating. The researcher's journey from data gathering to analysis and interpretation not only contributed to the academic rigor of the study but also endowed the results. 50 Frequency. In statistical analysis, the frequency of a data value is determined by the number of times each of the following predefined challenges and revealing evaluations were successfully completed by respondents (Gilbert, 2022). Ranking. Utilizing this tool, one can construct standard rates that, as the data is sorted, are given a rank-based modification. The primary purpose of its application in this research was to determine the degree to which a certain item is associated with a group (Oldendick, 2016). Mean. The formula used to compute it is as follows: To calculate the average, divide the total number of observations by the sum of all observations (Hurley and Tenny, 2022). The formula that follows presents the responses that were supplied by those who responded to

the survey about the compliance on health standards of the Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City. Aside from that, the value that corresponds to each item were identified and assigned so that the weighted mean may be determined for all of the elements. This were done in order to make the calculation as accurate as possible. The formula that was utilized in the process of computing the findings of the study is as follows: Weighted mean =  $[f(5) f(4) f(3) f(2) f(1)]/N$  Where 5,4,3,2,1 = corresponding value F = frequency of each response options N= total number of respondents 51 Likert Scale.

### **Ethical Considerations**

This underscores the importance of protecting personal information during a research study. The Data Privacy Act of 2012 mandates the enforcement of intentional measures to ensure the preservation of privacy and confidentiality of personal information obtained during the research process. The significance of this matter stems from the delicate character of personal data, which may be susceptible to exploitation if it is accessed by unauthorized individuals.

## **III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The methodology section outline the plan and method that how the study is conducted. This includes Universe of the study, sample of the study, Data and Sources of Data, study's variables and analytical framework. The details are as follows;

### **1.2 Level of Compliance of the Animal Bite Center to Health Standards**

In recent years, the increasing incidence of animal bites has drawn attention to the critical role played by Animal Bite Centers in managing and preventing the spread of zoonotic diseases. These centers serve as pivotal hubs for the treatment of individuals exposed to potential rabies transmission through animal bites, providing essential medical interventions such as wound care, post-exposure prophylaxis, and counseling. However, the effectiveness of these centers relies heavily on their adherence to established health standards and guidelines.

#### **1.2 Physical Environment**

The physical environment of the Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City is a testament to its commitment to providing quality care, fostering a sense of community well-being, and actively working towards preventing animal bites. It stands as a beacon of health and safety, ensuring that both patients and visitors experience a positive and supportive environment throughout their interactions with the center. Along with this, it provides a safe and effective physical environment to its patients and staff. On the other hand, the researcher evaluated the compliance with this indicator which is the physical environment by the following standards: the Animal Bite Center should have to be easily located and patients have convenient and safe access to the center, the ABTC/ABC provides facilities for the comfort and privacy of its patients and staff and the ABTC/ABC provides safety to its patients and staff.

#### **1.3 Clinical Management**

The Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City played a pivotal role in addressing these incidents, serving as a primary facility for the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of animal-related injuries. Animal bites posed a significant public health concern, encompassing a spectrum of injuries that ranged from minor wounds to severe, potentially life-threatening infections. Tarlac City, like many urban centers here in the Philippines, grappled with the challenge of managing cases of animal bites effectively.

#### **1.4 Quality Services**

In recent years, the increasing incidence of animal bites has underscored the importance of effective and efficient animal bite management centers in ensuring public health and safety. Among these centers, the Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City stands as a crucial center, serving as a frontline defense against the potential spread of many diseases. The Tarlac City Animal Bite Center is among the facilities requiring immediate attention. Despite having established rules and regulations to ensure compliance with health standards, there are individuals who, regrettably, exhibit a resistant attitude, resulting in suboptimal facility operations. This defiance contributes to the emergence of various problems and challenges within the center. In addition, as the prevalence of animal bites continues to pose a significant threat to the community, the need to evaluate and enhance the quality of services provided by the Animal Bite Center becomes paramount. This study would

not only benefit the quality of services that the center gave but of course ensure the safety and well-being of the people who resides in Tarlac City and within the province of Tarlac.

### 1.5 Policies and Guidelines

Animal bites, though common occurrences, pose potential threats to public health due to the transmission of zoonotic diseases, including rabies. The Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City plays a pivotal role in addressing these concerns by providing medical care, administering prophylactic treatments, and facilitating the reporting and monitoring of cases. The establishment of well-defined policies and guidelines is crucial to streamline the center's operations, ensuring a systematic and standardized approach to the management of animal bite incidents. Understanding the policies and guidelines in place at the Animal Bite Center is essential for evaluating the effectiveness of the center in preventing and managing animal bite cases.

### 1.6 Overall Level of Compliance on Health Standards of the Animal Bite Center

The Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City plays a crucial role in safeguarding public health by addressing cases of animal bites, a prevalent concern in both urban and rural communities. As a facility tasked with the management of these incidents, it is imperative that the center adheres to stringent health standards to ensure the well-being of both patients and staff. As a key institution in the healthcare landscape, the Animal Bite Center must continue to prioritize and enhance its adherence to health standards, thereby fulfilling its crucial role in protecting the community from the potential risks associated with animal bites

## II Problems Encountered of the Animal Bite Center in ensuring compliance with health standards

In the realm of public health, the Animal Bite Center plays a crucial role in managing and mitigating the risks associated with animal bites, a prevalent public health concern. While the primary focus of these centers is to provide timely and effective treatment for individuals bitten by animals, ensuring compliance with health standards is an ongoing challenge that demands attention and investigation. The significance of maintaining stringent health standards within these centers cannot be overstated, as lapses in compliance may not only jeopardize the well-being of affected individuals but also contribute to the spread of zoonotic diseases.

Long Waiting Times	84	1
Inconsistent Follow Up	82	2
Inconsistent Service Quality	79	3
Communication Issues	70	4
Lack of Educational Resources	64	5
Inefficient Appointment Scheduling	62	6
Inadequate Staffing	60	7
Lack of Trained Personnel	59	8
Limited Availability of Anti-Rabies Vaccines	32	9
Inconsistent Vaccination Protocols	28	10
Inadequate Record Keeping	5	11
Zoning and Location Issues	4	12
Inadequate Facilities	3	13
Lack of Proper Licensing	1	14

### 2.1 Proposed Action Plan to Address the Problems Encountered

The Animal Bite Center in Tarlac City has played a pivotal role in addressing the growing concerns surrounding animal bites and potential rabies exposure. As a critical public health facility, the center serves as a primary point of contact for individuals seeking medical attention after encountering animals that may pose a risk of transmitting infectious diseases, particularly rabies. Ensuring the highest health standards within the Animal Bite Center is imperative to safeguard the well-being of both patients and healthcare professionals. Rabies, a viral disease that affects the central nervous system, is a lifethreatening condition that demands immediate and effective medical intervention. In this context, the development and implementation of a comprehensive action plan become paramount to enhance the center's capabilities and align its operations with the latest health standards.

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