

Animal Contact Information for Students

You are responsible for reading all the following information regarding student-animal contact.

Why This Matters

- UC Davis follows the [Animal Welfare Act](#)—a federal law ensuring humane treatment of animals in education and research.
- The **Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)** oversees animal use and the safety of those who come into contact with animals.
- Your class activities involving animals are **approved by the IACUC** and follow strict safety protocols and animal use guidelines.

Health & Safety Overview

Be Aware of the Following Risks:

- **Zoonoses:** Animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans (e.g., from cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, rodents, reptiles, etc.).
- **Allergic Reactions:** Some students may have or develop animal allergies.
- **Injuries:** Animals can unintentionally cause physical harm.

Utilize the Following Precautions:


- Always **wash your hands** after contact with animals.
- Wear **long pants** and **closed-toed/heel shoes**.
- Use **protective gear** (e.g., lab coats, gloves) when required.
- Seek **medical attention immediately** if injured or ill—and inform your instructor.

Health Conditions or Concerns:


You should contact the **Student Health & Wellness Center** or your primary care physician if you:

- Have **allergies**
- Are **immunocompromised**
- Are **pregnant**

- Have **chronic health conditions**

 Appointments: **530-752-2349**

 hem.ucdavis.edu

 If advised not to attend specific labs, bring documentation to your instructor for **alternative arrangements**.

REQUIRED Reading Before You Begin Working with Animals

You **must** review **ALL THREE** links below:

1. [General Information: Potential Hazards \(zoonoses, allergies, injuries\)](#)
2. [Universal Precautions & Personal Hygiene](#)
3. [Zoonosis Information by Species](#) - Be sure to read the sections relevant to the animals in your course.

Special Note Regarding Q Fever

In certain courses (e.g., labs, field trips), you may be exposed to the following:

- **Animals** at the time of parturition
- **Reproductive tracts** from harvested animals

This may carry a higher risk of contracting **Q Fever**, which is a bacterial disease characterized by flu-like symptoms (such as acute fever, headache, etc.). It is generally caused by direct contact and/or inhalation of the birth products/fluids, urine, feces, or milk of infected animals (primarily **sheep, goats, or cattle**). A small percentage of people can develop chronic Q Fever.

Risk and severity are increased, particularly if you are:

- **Pregnant**
- **Immunocompromised**
- Have **heart valve disease**

 Learn more about [Q Fever and other zoonoses here](#).

Summary

- **Follow all safety protocols.**
- **Know the risks.**
- **Use the resources provided in this document.**
- **Ask your instructor if you have questions.**

Together, let's make your hands-on learning experiences safe, educational, and successful.