

**UC Davis**

**Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)**

**Title: *Animal Care and Use Occupational Health Program***

**I. Purpose:**

To establish the Occupational Health policy for the Animal Care and Use Program. This policy is intended to provide guidance for all persons who are listed on an Animal Care and Use Protocol and/or work with live, vertebrate animals.

**II. Policy:**

All employees, students, volunteers, visiting researchers, and non-UC collaborators who are listed on an approved Animal Care and Use Protocol and/or work with live, vertebrate animals in research or teaching are required to participate, as detailed below, in the UC Davis Animal Care and Use Occupational Health Program.

All individuals (including the Principal Investigator, PI) listed on an Animal Care and Use Protocol must be cleared through Occupational Health Services either on the Davis campus or on the Sacramento campus. For Davis campus employees, clearance can be obtained in the [Occupational Health Surveillance System](#) (OHSS) PRIOR to initiating any work with animals. **If health services are performed at UC Davis Health in Sacramento, Student Health Services, or an outside provider, please upload the records into the recommended section of the OHSS or provide by fax to the Davis campus Occupational Health Center at 530-752-5277.**

**III. Procedures:**

**A. Initial Medical Assessment Process**

1. The PI, Supervisor, or designee will fill out and submit a Risk Assessment form electronically in the OHSS, documenting the work environment for each individual listed on the Animal Care and Use Protocol. Sometimes the PI and participant are the same person; in this case both the participant and the PI steps will need to be completed by the PI. The Risk Assessment includes information on risks within the work environment including the following:

- The functional demands and environmental factors associated with the work to be performed
  - The potential animal exposures
  - Other potential work-site health and safety hazards (i.e., biological, chemical agents, blood borne pathogens)
2. The participant reviews the Risk Assessment and accepts or rejects if changes are needed.
  3. After accepting the Risk Assessment, the participant fills out the **confidential** Health Questionnaire and submits for review by a UC Davis medical professional at Occupational Health or as designated on the form. **Do not send personal medical information to IACUC staff or your supervisor.**
  4. The UC Davis Occupational Health medical professional reviews the participant's Risk Assessment and Health Questionnaire and sends the participant an email with a link to their Medical Assessment.
  5. The participant logs on to the OHSS site and reviews/acknowledges the Medical Assessment. If there are questions from the medical professional on either the Health Questionnaire or Risk Assessment, or recommendations requiring follow-up, the participant will need to respond to the questions or contact Occupational Health Services for an appointment at 530-752-6051 to complete the process.
  6. The IACUC system will be updated once steps 1-5 are complete and required in person appointments or procedures have been cleared. The review process may take several working days. In some cases, consultation with a UC Davis Occupational Health Services medical professional or medical services (i.e., TB testing, respirator clearance, vaccinations) may be required prior to obtaining clearance to enter certain facilities. Either the participant or the person who filled out the Risk Assessment may make the appointments required for testing. A Request for Service document may need to be sent before the appointment can be made with Occupational Health Services.
  7. Individual facilities may have additional Occupational Health requirements for entry. For example, a vaccination, titer or other testing/screening may be a condition of entering a facility or working with high-risk species or agent. Facility managers or delegates are responsible for ensuring such additional requirements are kept up to date for staff access. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Nonhuman primate facilities
- BSL-3 facilities
- Shriner's Hospital

#### **B. On-going Assessments**

1. The need for additional reviews, evaluations, and services will be determined by the Occupational Health Services medical professional in conjunction with the departmental requirements, based on risk and health history and may range from 1-5 years.
2. The PI is responsible for updating the risk assessment in a timely manner if there are changes in work assignments (i.e., change in species, contact levels, location) for participants or emergent zoonosis
3. Individuals listed on approved Animal Care and Use Protocols are responsible for updating their personal health records.
4. A new risk assessment must be created when there is a change in PI or supervisor, to ensure the automated renewal notifications are sent to the correct individual.

#### **C. Tracking**

The IACUC Office is responsible for verifying that individual(s) listed on a protocol have complied with the Occupational Health Program requirements. Completion dates are provided to the IACUC Office via a nightly feed provided by the OHSS.

#### **D. Training**

Individuals listed on an Animal Care and Use Protocol will be provided access to information regarding the following:

- The availability of medical evaluations and treatment
- The value of universal precautions and personal hygiene
- Information regarding allergic reactions and relevant zoonoses based on their particular animal exposures
- Reproductive health information

#### **IV. Students in Classes:**

1. Students not listed on a protocol but who have exposure to animals while participating in a teaching exercise must be provided with information from their

instructor about the potential risks associated with, and proper handling of, animals in classes.

Recommended handouts include:

- [Animal Contact Information for Students](#)
- [Universal Precautions and Personal Hygiene](#)
- [Potential Hazards \(zoonoses, allergies and injuries\)](#)
- [Zoonosis Information by Species](#)

- A. Students should be encouraged to contact Student Health Services or their primary health provider with any questions or concerns about the potential risks of working with animals in classes.
- B. Veterinary students must complete the Medical Entrance Requirements for the School of Veterinary Medicine.
- C. Other facilities may have additional Occupational Health requirements for entry. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Nonhuman primate facilities
  - BSL-3 facilities
  - Shriner's Hospital

**V. Temporary Affiliates (TAFs):** Visiting researchers and non-UC Davis collaborators.

- A. TAFs include individuals who are listed on an Animal Care and Use Protocol and/or work with live, vertebrate animals used in research or teaching and who are **NOT** UC Davis employees or students.
- B. The Temporary Affiliate has the option of receiving a medical evaluation by going through the OHSS process or receiving information pertinent to the protocol they are working on from the PI. The information provided must be documented. The information provided will include, but is not limited to the following:
  - The availability of and the option to request medical evaluations from Occupational Health.
  - Hand-outs (below):
    - [Potential Hazards \(zoonoses, allergies and injuries\)](#)
    - [Universal Precautions and Personal Hygiene](#)
  - Other potential work-site health and safety hazards.
  - The link to the [Hazard Assessment Tool](#)
  - Advice to contact their personal health care provider for consultation if they have concerns based on the medical evaluation provided by Occupational Health Services. Persons who are pregnant, immunocompromised, diabetic,

have a history of allergies, or other significant medical conditions should contact their personal healthcare provider for a consultation prior to working with animals.

- C. Non-UC Davis Collaborators may submit an [Exemption Form](#) verifying that they participate in their AAALAC Accredited home institution's Occupational Health program as long as the individual is working under a protocol at their home institution and has clearance working with the same species. Individuals from non-accredited organizations or who are not cleared for the same species at their home institution will need to arrange clearance through the PI they are working under at UC Davis (see B. Above).
- D. Individual facilities may have additional Occupational Health requirements for entry. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - Nonhuman primate facilities
  - BSL-3 facilities
  - Shriner's Hospital

## VI. Volunteers:

- A. This includes individuals **NOT** listed on an Animal Care and Use Protocol and who are **NOT** UC Davis employees or students, but they **do** work with live, vertebrate animals.
- B. The volunteer has the option of receiving a medical evaluation by going through the OHSS process or the PI or Facility Manager will provide each individual with information pertinent to the species/protocol on which they are working and document the information has been provided. The information provided will include, but is not limited to, the following:
  - The availability of and the option to request medical evaluations from Occupational Health Services.
  - Hand-outs (below):
    - [Potential Hazards \(zoonoses, allergies and injuries\)](#)
    - [Universal Precautions and Personal Hygiene](#)
  - Other potential work-site health and safety hazards.
  - The link the [Hazard Analysis Tool](#)
  - Advice to contact their personal health care provider for consultation if they have concerns based on the medical evaluation provided by Occupational Health Services. Persons that are pregnant, immunocompromised, diabetic, have a history of allergies, or other significant medical conditions should

contact their personal healthcare provider for a consultation prior to working with animals.

- Workplace exposures must be reported and treated at Occupational Health Services.

C. Individual facilities may have additional Occupational Health requirements for entry. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Nonhuman primate facilities
- BSL-3 facilities
- Shriner's Hospital

## VII. **Ancillary Personnel:**

A. Ancillary personnel are those employees who **do not** have direct animal contact in their daily job functions, but who may need to enter an animal area or multi-use laboratory while performing their duties and may be exposed to environmental/animal hazards.

B. Ancillary personnel will be provided, by their supervisor or designee, information based on their need for entry into animal care facilities. IACUC staff will provide triennial training to Facilities Management employees and they are available to provide training to other ancillary groups as needed. This training will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- The availability of and the option to enroll in the online OHS System.
- Hand-outs (below):
  - [\*Potential Hazards \(zoonoses, allergies and injuries\)\*](#)
  - [\*Universal Precautions and Personal Hygiene\*](#)
  - [\*Working in Animal Areas-Facilities Training\*](#)
- Other potential work-site health and safety hazards.
- Considerations when entering animal areas to prevent cross contamination and promote animal welfare.

C. The link to the [Hazard Analysis Tool](#)

D. Individual facilities may have additional Occupational Health requirements for entry and may provide additional training prior to entry. Examples include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Nonhuman primate facilities
- BSL-3 facilities
- Shriner's Hospital

- E. Occupational Health Services may be contacted to provide group training sessions upon request.

**VIII. Resources:**

- 0. Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals  
<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/4988/occupational-health-and-safety-in-the-care-and-use-of-research-animals>
- 1. UC Davis Policy and Procedure 290-25  
<https://ucdavispolicy.ellucid.com/documents/view/279/active/>
- 2. UC Davis Occupational Health Surveillance System (OHSS)  
<https://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/units/occupational-health/surveillance-system>
- 3. UC Davis Zoonotic Diseases and Risk Assessment  
<https://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/units/occupational-health/surveillance-system/zoonotic-diseases>
- 4. UC Davis Laboratory Hazard Assessment Tool (LHAT)  
<https://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/units/ehs/research/laboratory/lhat>
- 5. TAF Exemption Form  
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/Attch-2-TAF-Exemption-Form-2022.pdf>
- 6. Universal Precautions and Personal Hygiene  
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/Universal-Precautions-and-Personal-Hygiene.pdf>
- 7. Potential Hazards (zoonoses, allergies and injuries)  
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/Potential-Hazards.pdf>
- 8. Animal Contact Information for Students  
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/Animal-Contact-Information-for-Students.pdf>
- 9. Working in Animal Areas-Facilities Training  
<https://research.ucdavis.edu/wp-content/uploads/Working-in-Animal-Areas-Facility-Training.pdf>