

## UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

Policy: SC-10-102  
Date: 3/1/2022  
Enabled by: The Guide,  
The Ag Guide  
APHIS, PPM, UCOP  
Supersedes: 9/1/2019

### **Title: Animal Care Program Personal Protective Equipment Policy**

---

I. Purpose:

The purpose of the policy is to establish a minimum standard for personal protective equipment (PPE) when working with animals used for research and teaching. This policy is written to account for the many species and housing situations and differing regulatory requirements at UC Davis.

II. Policy:

All units providing animal care for research and teaching animals must meet or exceed these minimum requirements for personal protective equipment (PPE) based on the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and/or the Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Teaching*. All units must have a local standard operating procedure outlining the protective equipment required. The facility may implement more stringent PPE requirements if needed, for the species, hazards and other conditions present. Additionally, the University Office of the President (UCOP) safety requirements must be met in animal areas, including closed toed/heeled shoes and long pants or long skirt. The intent is that the lower extremities are covered and there is no exposed skin on the torso, legs, ankles, and feet.

PPE required for use in animal facilities and laboratories in which animals are used should be supplied by the facility or lab manger. Non-disposable PPE and uniforms should be laundered by the facility and/or department. PPE should never be taken home or to a public laundromat.

PPE will be maintained in a clean and functional condition and should be changed/laundered and replaced as often as necessary to maintain good personal hygiene and an appropriate level of protection.

III. Procedure:

Animal care workers (to include: husbandry, veterinary, research, support or any other person entering an animal facility or handling or transporting animals) shall wear appropriate and clean outer clothing and closed toed and heeled shoes and/or location

## UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

appropriate foot wear that meets or exceeds the UCOP policy on PPE in laboratory or technical spaces.

Occupational Health Services may have additional PPE recommendations or requirements based on individual history and/or required risk assessment.

### **The following species and setting specific requirements apply:**

#### Rodents:

A laboratory coat and gloves must be worn when handling rodents. Variations including long sleeved scrub shirts are acceptable alternatives to the laboratory coats as long as the clothing exposed to the rodent is not worn in non-rodent areas. Working with rodents also requires appropriate footwear that minimizes exposure to allergens. Specific facilities may have additional requirements. The purpose of these requirements is twofold, one is to minimize the potential for clothing exposed to allergens, pathogens or other fomites from being transmitted outside the facility into clean eating or office areas, the other is to minimize skin exposure to allergens and pathogens. PPE should not be worn or taken out of the vivarium. (Exception: a laboratory coat is not required while performing rodent surgery if there is a concern for contamination of surgical site. This exception applies only to the actual surgical procedure – all pre and post operative care must be done with PPE as described above).

#### Avian:

Due to the wide variety of species used and facilities in which avian species are housed, each facility should have a policy or standard operating procedure developed for PPE based on species and the bird's health status. At a minimum laboratory coat and gloves or other suitable covering or dedicated clothing are recommended and must be available. Hearing protection should be made available for use in areas where vocal/loud species are housed.

#### Aquatics:

Animal care personnel (husbandry, veterinary, research, support or any other person entering an animal facility or handling or transporting animals) should wear closed toed/heeled shoes or laboratory appropriate foot wear. Additional PPE may be required and if required will be provided by the facility or laboratory.

It is important to note that latex and glove powder can be toxic to some aquatic species and clean hands are preferable to gloves in some situations involving aquatics. Good personal hygiene dictates thoroughly washing hands after handling aquatic animals and/or equipment. Gloves should be worn when handling MS-222 per SOC 40-406 MS-222 Preparation and Use.

#### Large/Agricultural Animals:

Clean clothing and closed toe/closed heel foot wear are required. Each facility should have a policy or standard operating procedure developed for PPE based on species and health status of the animals. Other situational PPE that is required will be provided by the facility.

#### Nonhuman Primates:

## UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

Persons working with nonhuman primates must wear personnel protective equipment as designated by the facility and the task they are performing. Persons must wear a lab coat or Tyvek sleeves, gloves, dedicated shoes or shoe covers, eye protection and a mask. When working with aerosolizing materials or when splashing is likely, the addition of dedicated scrubs or uniforms are also required. Specific situations may call for more stringent requirements and will be set by the facility, safety, or veterinary staff.

### Other Biomedical Research and Teaching Animals:

Laboratory coat, closed toe/closed heel footwear and gloves or other dedicated clothing are recommended and must be available for traditionally housed laboratory animal species. For example, dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets and others. Specific facilities may develop their own procedures based on their level of risk.

### Field studies:

Due to the wide variety of species used and situations encountered each project should have a policy or standard operating procedure developed for PPE based on species, risk and level of exposure.

### Cage Wash and Sanitation Areas:

Cage wash and sanitation areas will observe precautions for exposure to dander, feces, urine, bedding and other potential allergens. Lab coat or dedicated uniform, closed toe/closed heel footwear and gloves are required. When a respiratory exposure hazard is present, engineering controls will be in place to minimize exposure. If engineering controls are not present, or not completely protective, respiratory protection will be worn. A survey and risk assessment will be used to determine the level of protection required. Employees will comply with OSHA requirements for fitting of respirators, when their use is warranted. Employees at greater risk or those with already present allergies will wear the respiratory protection recommended/required by the occupational health physician. In addition to allergens, slippery wet conditions, heat, steam, chemicals and loud noise will be present in sanitation or cage wash areas. PPE appropriate to the risk will be worn. This may include heat protective gloves, eye/face protection, hearing protection, slip resistant foot wear (closed toe/heel) and any other PPE or clothing identified as necessary through a thorough risk assessment.

### Additional Procedures

Escorted visitors, inspectors, students and other personnel entering animal facilities not handling animals may have different personnel protective equipment requirements than those in place for animal care workers and other staff routinely working with and handling animals in animal facilities. These requirements will be explained to the escorted/visitor personnel before entry and when accessing the facility. This contingency is due to the lower level of risk or exposure associated with the tasks being performed.

Protective clothing, uniforms exposed to animals, and other protective equipment are not to be worn beyond the boundary of the animal facility or hazardous agent work area. Hands should be thoroughly washed after handling animals and before leaving the animal area. The purpose of these requirement is to keep the potential hazards contained in the work area. This helps prevent the transmission of potential pathogens and the

## UC Davis Office of the Attending Veterinarian Standards of Care

spread of allergens between facilities, laboratories, and public spaces/homes. Facility lab coats are not to leave the animal area. The only exception is when handling animals for and during transport.

Whenever a zoonotic potential exists, personnel at a minimum will exercise universal precautions to protect themselves. The CDC requirements for PPE will be reviewed and implemented as needed depend on the hazard and recommendations from the Occupational Health Physician. Facilities can institute additional PPE as needed for situational risk.