

## INFORMATION FOR VISITING RESEARCHERS, NON-UCSC COLLABORATORS, VOLUNTEERS AND STUDENTS REGARDING THE UCSC ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROGRAM



### General Information:

*There are potential risks associated with working with animals – physical injury, allergies and zoonoses.*

*If you are or may be pregnant, immunocompromised, diabetic, or have a history of allergies or other significant medical conditions, you should consult with a physician before working with animals. UCSC Students may contact the Student Health Center at (831) 459-2780 to discuss medical issues with a health care specialist. Non-UCSC students and others should consult with their own physicians.*

As a participant on an IACUC protocol, you also have the option to undergo UCSC's Occupational Health Screening prior to work with animals. If you choose to participate in the health screening, ask the Principal Investigator for your project to add you to the EH&S OHSS for the protocol.

You may also obtain helpful information from the Zoonosis Information by Species. This tool provides information regarding zoonotic diseases for several species.

You can also use the UC Davis Hazard Analysis Tool, which provides an interactive worksheet that provides safety information based upon your animal contact.

### The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee:

University policy specifies that:

- all animals under University care (that is, involved in projects under the auspices or sponsorship of the University) will be treated humanely;
- prior to their inception, all animal projects receive approval by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC);
- UCSC will comply with state and federal regulations regarding animal use and care.
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The UCSC Animal Care and Use Program follows federal and state guidelines and policies. If you would like specific information or have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IACUC Office (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee) 831.459.3150 or [iacuc@ucsc.edu](mailto:iacuc@ucsc.edu)

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, or IACUC, is a committee appointed by the Institutional Official. The Institutional Official relies on the IACUC to oversee the program, to develop plans to correct program deficiencies, to address concerns that may

arise regarding the institution's use of animals, and to make recommendations with regard to the program.

The IACUC oversees the specific use of animals by reviewing Animal Care and Use Protocols. All animal research activity must be reviewed and approved by the IACUC before it begins. All animal facilities, laboratories and study areas are inspected by the IACUC.

It is the responsibility of the institution to ensure that all personnel involved in animal care and use are appropriately qualified to perform their duties and conduct proposed activities. The IACUC evaluates the adequacy of the experience of all personnel listed on an Animal Care and Use Protocol and may require additional training when necessary.

### **Animal Care and Use Protocol:**

Every project involving the use of live, vertebrate animals must have an approved Animal Care and Use Protocol. You should read any protocol you are working on to help you understand the project and procedures.

Prior to approval every protocol must meet the 3 R's –

- Reduction: Demonstrate how the investigator attempted to reduce the total numbers of animals used
- Refinement: Demonstrate what techniques were considered to reduce the pain and distress to which an animal is subjected
- Replacement: Demonstrate what alternatives to animals were considered to replace the animal model
- There is also a 4th R – RESPONSIBILITY: Any person working with a live, vertebrate animal has the responsibility to show respect, care and concern for the animal's comfort and well being.

### **Other University Policies:**

The IACUC has developed several policies and guidelines designed to assist researchers in complying with the various regulations and ensuring the health and welfare of animals at the University. All persons involved with animals research should familiarize themselves with the policies which pertain to the projects they are working on. You can access the IACUC policies at [www.iacuc.ucsc.edu](http://www.iacuc.ucsc.edu)

## Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns:

UC Santa Cruz is dedicated to the humane care and use of live vertebrate animals in research and teaching as well as protecting the rights of the individuals who report animal welfare concerns.

Therefore, any incident, non-compliance or adverse event related to animal welfare that is brought to the attention of the IACUC, ORCA or Office of Research are taken very seriously and thoroughly investigated. Individuals conveying the report will not be discriminated against (9 CFR § 2.32,c,4) and will remain anonymous (to the extent possible), unless they wish to identify themselves.

If possible, concerns regarding the experimental use of animals should be discussed with the Principal Investigator (PI), laboratory staff, animal health technicians, and/or animal resource facility managers. If the issue cannot be discussed or resolved with these individuals or if concerns persist, individuals are encouraged to report suspected deficiencies or concerns via telephone, electronic communication, or in-person to one or more of the administrators below.

### **Who to Report To:**

UCSC's Attending Veterinarian: 831-459-3135

Biomedical Facility Supervisor: 831-459-2793

Long Marine Facility Manager: 831-459-4771

The IACUC: [iacuc@ucsc.edu](mailto:iacuc@ucsc.edu) or 831-459-3150

ORCA Director: [orca@ucsc.edu](mailto:orca@ucsc.edu) or 831-459-4114

Vice Chancellor for Research: 831-459-2425

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# UC SANTA CRUZ

## Universal Precautions and Personal Hygiene

for  
VISITING RESEARCHERS, NON-UC SANTA CRUZ COLLABORATORS,  
VOLUNTEERS and STUDENTS



### Wash your hands.

The most common way to contract a zoonotic infection is by accidentally placing the infectious material directly in your mouth. Frequent and thorough hand washing is the best way to stop infection. The sooner you wash your hands after exposure, the less likely you are to spread infection.

#### When to Wash Your Hands

- Always wash your hands before and after eating, drinking, smoking, or using the restroom.
- Wash after working with the animals.
- Wash after touching an object or surface that is or may be contaminated.
- Wash as soon as you remove your gloves or other personal protective equipment (PPE).

#### How to Wash Your Hands

- Carefully remove gloves and other PPE before you wash.
- Turn on water. Wet your hands and use plenty of soap. Work up a good lather. Don't just wipe – rub well.
- Clean your whole hand, under your nails, between your fingers, and up your wrists. Wash for at least 10-15 seconds out of the water stream.
- Rinse your hands well. Let the water run off your fingertips, not your wrists.
- Use clean paper towels to dry your hands well. Use paper towels to turn off the faucet and open the door so you don't recontaminate your hands.

### Wear Protective Clothing.

Wear the protective clothing determined to be appropriate by your Principal Investigator or Instructor when you are working with animals. In some circumstances, protective clothing will consist of a lab coat; for others it may be a dedicated set of clothing. Protective clothing helps ensure that you won't bring potentially contaminated material home with you.

### Use Personal Protective Devices.

Some types of work require personal protective devices such as gloves, face shields, masks, respirators, etc. Always use the protective devices where required.

### Seek Medical Attention Promptly.

If you are injured, you must promptly report the accident to your Principal Investigator or Instructor, even if it seems relatively minor. **You will then report to UrgencyMED (831-704-3030) or Cowell Student Health Center (831-459-2211) for evaluation of the injury.**

### Tell your physician you work with animals.

Whenever you're ill, even if you're not certain whether or not the illness is animal related, always mention to your physician that you have had animal contact. Many zoonotic diseases have flu-like symptoms, and your physician needs this information to make an accurate diagnosis.

### Get the Facts.

All persons using animals should review the particular hazards, precautions, and hazard evaluation procedures specific to the species with which you will have contact and procedures to be performed. If there is something you don't understand, ask your Principal Investigator or Instructor. They are responsible for teaching you what you need to know to work with the animals safely and effectively.

You should know **how to recognize hazard warning signs, how to protect yourself against each recognized hazard, and how to react properly in the event of emergencies.** Safety is everyone's business.



## General Information: Potential Hazards

for  
VISITING RESEARCHERS, NON-UC SANTA CRUZ COLLABORATORS,  
VOLUNTEERS and STUDENTS



The general hazards associated with having contact with animals fall into three categories: zoonoses, allergies and injuries.

### ZOONOSES

Zoonoses are diseases of animals that are transmissible to humans. They may be a significant hazard in some situations where animals are used. Fortunately, many laboratory animal species today are bred to be free of zoonoses that were once more common in these animals. However, laboratory and farm animals still can be infected with zoonotic agents, some of which can be life-threatening to humans. Field research with wild species remains an important source of exposure to zoonotic agents. Prevention of exposure to these animal-related illnesses requires knowledge of the zoonoses that may be found in the animals with which you will be working. If you are exposed through a bite, scratch, needle stick, aerosol droplet, mucosal secretion, feces or urine, there is the potential for you to become infected. You should notify your Principal Investigator or Instructor and seek medical consultation.

You may be at increased risk for zoonotic infection if you are immune compromised (e.g. taking steroids like prednisone on a regular basis, diabetic, infected with HIV infection, etc). If you have questions or concerns about your health status or risks that you will be exposed to, you should make an appointment with your health care provider for a health evaluation.

The Hazard Analysis Tool at <http://safetyapps.ucdavis.edu/IACUC/risktool/index.cfm> and the Public Health Agency of Canada at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/id-mi/index-eng.php> are a couple of sites that are excellent resources regarding zoonotic diseases.

### ALLERGIES

Some people develop allergies to the animals they work with or to their own pets. The incidence is quite high - some estimate that as many as 15% of people are allergic to some animal species. If you're allergic to a species that you have regular contact with, it can be quite debilitating. If you suffer from asthma, having contact with a species to which you are allergic can be a significant health risk.

Individuals with allergies may display any of a number of symptoms. These include allergic rhinitis (a condition characterized by runny nose and sneezing similar to hay fever); allergic conjunctivitis (irritation and tearing of the eyes); asthma (characterized by wheezing and shortness of breath), and contact dermatitis (a red, bumpy rash that may appear where your skin touches the animal). If you have a stuffy nose or other respiratory signs, and if it seems to last longer than a common cold (weeks instead of days) then you may very well be suffering from an allergy. If you develop suspicious symptoms whenever you're exposed to a certain species, then you're very likely to have an animal allergy.

People may be allergic to any animal species. The allergens are proteins that are excreted in the animals' saliva, urine, and from various glands associated with the skin. The proteins tend to be sticky and become associated with the animal's hair and with particles of dander. The allergens are unique to each species of animal, so it's possible to be allergic to mice and not to rats and vice versa. It is also possible to be allergic to multiple species.

The most effective way to control and prevent allergies is to minimize exposure to the allergens. If you have animal allergies, or think you are at risk of developing such allergies as a result of working with animals, you should make an appointment to discuss your concerns with a doctor and get advice about the best methods you can use to protect yourself.



## INJURIES

All animals are capable of inflicting bites and scratches. Small animals, such as rodents and rabbits, usually cause only minor wounds. Larger species like cats, dogs and nonhuman primates can inflict severe wounds. Bite and scratch wounds can become infected due to the normal bacteria present in the animal's mouth or toenails, or by bacteria that are present on your own skin. To prevent bites and scratches use proper animal handling techniques. Protective garments, such as gloves, gauntlets and long-sleeved laboratory coats can be useful in limiting injury to the hands and arms.

When you handle or move large livestock like horses or cattle, injuries can also be caused if the animal kicks you or if you get pinned between the animal and a building, implement, or other fixed object. The best way to avoid such injuries is to understand animal behavior. Only by knowing what to expect in certain situations can you protect yourself and others from injury.

Your Principal Investigator or Instructor will train you in animal handling and advise you about appropriate protective clothing. If you are bitten, scratched, or otherwise injured (e.g. stuck with a needle, etc.), immediately wash any wounds with plenty of soap and water, and let your Principal Investigator or Instructor know about the injury. You should then call your health care provider to help you make an informed decision regarding your medical needs.

UrgencyMED: (831) 704-3030  
Dominican Hospital, Emergency: (831) 462-7710  
Cowell Student health Center: (831) 459-2211  
Institutional Animal Care and Use: (831) 459-3150  
Environmental Health and Safety: (831) 459-2553  
Risk Services: (831) 459-2850