

UC Davis Policy and Procedure Manual

Chapter 290, Health and Safety Services

Section 25, Health Services for Individuals Having Animal Contact

Date: 3/29/10

Supersedes: 4/30/98

Responsible Department: Safety Services

Source Document: N/A

I. Purpose

This section outlines the medical surveillance requirements for individuals who have contact with or are exposed to live vertebrate animals used in research or teaching. Services for this purpose are provided by UC Davis Occupational Health Services.

II. Policy

- A. It is the policy of UC Davis to comply with all pertinent Federal, State, and local statutes, standards, and regulations regarding the provision of personnel health programs for individuals who have contact with or are exposed to live vertebrate animals used in research or teaching.
- B. Individuals who have contact with or are exposed to live vertebrate animals used in research or teaching refers to faculty, staff, graduate and undergraduate students, visiting researchers, non UC-collaborators and volunteers who in the course of their employment, research, or education, have exposures that increase their risks of an occupational illness, such as a zoonotic disease, physical injury, or an animal allergy.
- C. Individuals who have contact with or are exposed to live vertebrate animals as a component of their employment, research, or education must participate in the Animal Care and Use Occupational Health Program as indicated in Section 290-30.

III. Procedures

A. Occupational Health Service Notification

Supervisors, Principal Investigators, and instructors must ensure that individuals who have contact with or are exposed to live vertebrate animals used in research or teaching, participate in or receive information regarding the Animal Care and Use Occupational Health Program

B. Students

1. Students who are not listed on a protocol but have exposure to animals while participating in a teaching exercise will not normally be required to enroll in the Animal Care and Use Occupational Health Program.
2. Students will be provided with information about any health considerations relative to the species with which they will be exposed.
3. Veterinary students must complete the Medical Entrance Requirements for the School of Veterinary Medicine, and will receive additional health services, such as rabies vaccination, under the direction of Cowell Student Health Center.
4. Students who are also employees will be subject to the same enrollment criteria as regular employees.

C. Training

1. Supervisors, Principal Investigators, and instructors of individuals at increased risk must provide training and information about zoonoses, personal hygiene, and other considerations, such as precautions to be taken by individuals in their child-bearing years.

2. Hazards, including animal bites and allergies, should be addressed and methods for preventing and treating them should be discussed.
 3. Supervisors, Principal Investigators, and Instructors may contact the IACUC Office for assistance in conducting this training, those requiring information about animal associated health risks may contact Occupational Health Services or Cowell Student Health Services.
- D. Personal Hygiene
1. Individuals having exposure to or contact with animals shall maintain high standards of personal cleanliness to maintain human and animal health.
 2. Suitable clothing and personal protective equipment used in handling animals and in the animal facility must be provided and maintained by the operational area.
 3. Appropriate clothes changing areas and storage for street clothing must be identified (see Section 290-50).
 4. Eating, drinking, and smoking are prohibited in animal contact areas.
- E. Initial Medical Assessment Process
1. A risk assessment, detailing the risks associated with an individual's duties or exposures, must be completed and submitted to Occupational Health Services for all individuals listed on a Protocol for Animal Care and Use.
 - a. Each individual will complete their Health Assessment Questionnaire form and submit it to Occupational Health Services.
 - b. The Occupational Health Physician will prescribe subsequent actions to be taken.
 - c. Additional histories and physical examinations, immunizations, and laboratory analysis may be required at appropriate intervals, as determined by the Occupational Health Physician.
 - d. Such additional medical service may be subject to review by the Biological Safety Administrative Advisory Committee (see Section 290-55).
 2. In all cases, the decision to enroll or not to enroll in the Occupational Health program will be based on risk assessment of animal contact or exposure rather than on the employment status of the individual.
 3. Individuals may elect not to participate in the Occupational Health program; however, this may limit access into areas in which animals are used. The program is designed to protect individuals with contact or exposure to animals.
- F. Costs for Preventive Medical Treatment
1. The initial risk assessment is at no cost to the department.
 2. Except in the case of treatment of work-incurred illness or injury, additional preventive medical services provided by Occupational Health Services are on a fee-for- service basis paid by the departments involved. The "involved department" is considered the department whose faculty or staff member is listed as the Principal Investigator on the Protocol for Animal Care and Use and Care (see Section 290-30).
- G. Treatment of Illness or Injury
1. In the event of a life threatening emergency call 911 or seek immediate medical attention. Individuals who suffer illness or injury are responsible for reporting the incident to their immediate supervisor as soon as possible.

2. Individuals must notify their supervisor of suspected zoonosis or any illness accompanied by diarrhea, numbness, dizziness, stiff neck or joints, cough, or fever. If the disease is thought to be work-related, it must be reported immediately to Occupational Health Services.
3. Injured persons must report to Occupational Health Services (UCD Campus), Employee Health Services (UCDMC Campus) or other specified medical care facilities for treatment or referral of an occupational injury (refer to Section 370-20 or UCDHS Hospital Policies & Procedures Manual Section 2942 for procedures for reporting injuries).
4. Bites and scratches must be flushed immediately with water and then scrubbed with soap and water prior to reporting for treatment. Specific departmental protocols must be followed based on the animal species and source of the injury.
5. Supervisors must report work-related illness or injury to the Workers' Compensation Unit within 24 hours, as outlined in Section 370-20.

IV. Further Information

- A. For a detailed description of the Animal Care and Use Occupational Health Program for Animal Care and Use, refer to IACUC 47 (<http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/iacuc/policies/acu-occ-health-policy>).
- B. For further information, contact Occupational Health Services (530)757-3200 or the IACUC Office (530)752-2364.

V. Related Policy

- A. UCD Policy and Procedure Manual (<http://manuals.ucdavis.edu/PPM/about.htm>):
 1. Section 290-30, Use and Care of Animals in Research and Teaching.
 2. Section 290-50, Protective Clothing and Equipment.
 3. Section 290-55, Biological Safety.
 4. Section 290-60, Occupational and Preventive Medicine.
 5. Section 370-20, Workers' Compensation.
- B. IACUC 47, Animal Care and Use Occupational Health Program (<http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/iacuc/policies/acu-occ-health-policy>).