

UC Davis Policy and Procedure Manual

Chapter 290, Health and Safety Services

Section 25, Health Services for Individuals Having Animal Contact

Date: 4/13/15

Supersedes: 3/29/10

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. The University complies 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 be required to enroll in the Animal Care and Use Occupational Health Program.
2. Students will be provided 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 **Student Health** and Counseling Services.
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, and methods for preventing and treating them must be included in the training.
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 **Student Health** and Counseling 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 (PPE) used in handling animals and in the animal facility must be provided and maintained by the operational area.
 - a. These supplies must be cleaned on site or through the commercial vendor
 - b. PPE must not be taken home.
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 through the Occupational Health Surveillance System (<https://ohss.uctechnology.ucdavis.edu>).
 - a. Each individual will then complete their confidential Health Questionnaire and submit it to Occupational Health Services in the secure online process.
 - b. The Occupational Health Physician will then review the risk assessment and health questionnaire and prescribe appropriate 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.
2. In all cases, the decision to enroll or not to enroll in the Occupational Health program will be based primarily 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. 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/ps/a/IACUC/po/ohpacup/ohpacupinfo>).
- B. For further information, contact Occupational Health Services (530)752-6051 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/ps/a/IACUC/po/ohpacup/ohpacupinfo>).