

# HEALTH AND RISK ASSESSMENT FOR EMPLOYEE SAFETY IN THE CARE AND USE OF ANIMALS

Completed form should be submitted to the IACUC committee via [IACUC@eou.edu](mailto:IACUC@eou.edu)

1. Occupational health and safety principles require that employees know the hazards associated with their work, understand how these hazards are controlled, utilize safe practices, and use protective supplies and equipment.
2. The *Public Health Service Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* requires institutions to provide occupational health-care services to employees who work with animals.
3. This is not a requirement to provide specific health-care services to all employees with animal contact. On the contrary, the report of the *Committee on Occupational Safety and Health in Research Animal Facilities* (NRC, 1997) emphasizes that a risk assessment be a prerequisite in selecting appropriate health-care services for each employee.
4. This should be a collaborative assessment of risk which includes the principal investigator, research employee, health and safety officers, veterinarian, compliance officer, and animal care staff.
5. As a way of initiating and documenting this assessment, **each employee working with animals must complete this health and risk assessment document.**

## 1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Principle Investigator: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Institutional Status

- ☐ Employee    ☐ Research-Student    ☐ Student-Employee  
☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. PROTOCOL & ANIMAL FACILITY RELATED EXPOSURES

Indicate with a check below that you:

- ☐ Have reviewed the webpage entitled “Occupational Health & Safety in the Care and Use of Animals” viewable at <http://www.research.usf.edu/dric/iacuc/occupational-health-safety.asp>
- ☐ Have considered the protocols in which you will be involved, the species to be used, risk factors associated with the use of each species, and any unique hazards associated with the animal care and use aspects of each protocol.
- ☐ Are aware that rodents (i.e., mice & rats) are the most prevalent laboratory animal species housed and used in most animal facilities.
- ☐ Are aware that furred animals produce human allergens, including  $\alpha_2\mu$ -globulins present in the urine of rodents and the saliva and dander of cats, which can remain airborne for extended periods and penetrate lower airways, resulting in allergic symptoms in at risk personnel, including respiratory symptoms, a rash or hives, or anaphylaxis.
- ☐ Are aware that even the use of animal tissue poses a risk to the health of researchers through the transfer of disease (e.g., brucellosis, leptospirosis, listeriosis).
- ☐ Have completed the required trainings applicable to the investigation.
  - o Working with the IACUC ☐ Yes    ☐ No    ☐ Na

## 3. INFECTIOUS AND BIOHAZARDOUS AGENTS.

Does your research involve animals experimentally or naturally infected with an infectious agent known to cause disease in healthy adult humans, (Agents in Risk Group RG2, RG3, or RG4, of Appendix B of *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules* (NIH, 2009), or an agent in the agent summary statements of *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* (CDC-NIH, 2009), or an agent known to cause disease in animals, which is infectious to human cells (Agents in Appendix B-V of *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules* (NIH, 2009), or a

zoonotic agent in the agent summary statements of *Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals* (NRC, 1997)?

☐ No: Proceed to Item #4. ☐ Yes: If so, please indicate the agent below.

The infectious agent(s) is: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4. SAFETY PROCEDURES.**

Can you suggest any additional precautions, containment practices or facilities, protective devices, disposal methods, decontamination procedures, or other safety procedures to protect personnel, and prevent accidental animal exposure to hazardous materials? (You may find that *Biosafety in Microbiological and Biomedical Laboratories* (CDC-NIH, 2009), *NIH Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules* (NIH, 2009), *Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals* (NRC, 1997), and MSDS are helpful references). Notify IACUC at [IACUC@eou.edu](mailto:IACUC@eou.edu)

☐ No: Proceed to Item #5. ☐ Yes: If so, please indicate: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **5. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.**

Does your research involve unvaccinated or uncharacterized carnivores, pregnant sheep, goats, cattle, or nonhuman primates?

☐ No: Proceed to Item #6. ☐ Yes: Occupational health care services are required.

#### **6. CLINICAL CONDITION.**

Please indicate below by checking that you understand that an occupational health care professional should be made aware of any previously undeclared, existing, or possible future conditions which could affect your ability to perform your research duties without risk of substantial harm, such as, but not limited to, a personal or family history of allergy (e.g., seasonal rhinitis, hay fever, eczema, hives, latex allergy, or the need to wear respiratory protection/ mask), asthma symptoms (e.g., coughing, wheezing, chest tightness, or shortness of breath), chronic skin condition or irritation, tuberculosis, spina bifida, diabetes, epilepsy, immunodeficiency, hearing loss, or medications which compromise immunocompetence.

☐ I understand. Proceed to Item #7.

#### **7. TETANUS AND RABIES VACCINATION**

Please indicate below by checking that you are aware that puncture wounds from sharps and animal bites are an intermittent, but possible hazard, that animal bites, even from rodents, can develop severe complications, and that all personnel working with animals should keep their tetanus immunization status current. Additionally, individuals working with wild mammal populations should speak with their health care provider regarding rabies vaccination.

☐ I understand. Proceed to Item #8.

#### **8. HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

Please indicate below by checking that:

☐ I understand and know the hazards associated with my work, understand how these hazards are controlled, will utilize safe practices, protective supplies and equipment, and will seek appropriate health-care services via a personal health care provider.

#### **9. CERTIFICATION.**

I have discussed the potential risks and hazards associated with my involvement in animal protocols with the principal investigator of those protocols.

I understand that a *Incident/Injury Report* must be completed after all accidents, injuries, or suspected hazardous exposures involving animals, or which occur in animal facilities.

I understand that recommendations can be made regarding this health & safety program by contacting the IACUC committee at [IACUC@eou.edu](mailto:IACUC@eou.edu).

I assure that the conduct of protocols and all animal care and use will be in accordance with the *IACUC's Principles & Procedures of Animal Care and Use*, as well as the principles and guidelines referenced above. This description is complete and accurate. I certify I am adequately trained and experienced to conduct my duties.

Signature of Employee \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Principal Investigator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_