

ANIMAL CARE AND USE UPDATE

Office of Research Support and Compliance
The University of Texas at Austin

July 2018
Volume 11,
Issue 3

Animal Welfare
Assurance
D16-00592
(A4107-01)

USDA Class R
Research Facility
Customer ID:
1453
Certificate:
74-R-0029

AAALAC Accredited
Since
October 29,
2001

The next
IACUC Full
Committee
Review
(FCR) is
Monday
September
10, 2018

The
submission
deadline for
review at
this FCR is
Monday
August 20,
2018

FOCUS ON SAFETY



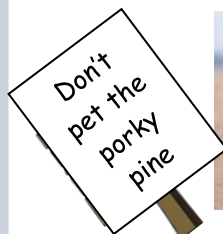
Beyond animal welfare, the IACUC is tasked with oversight of the safety of personnel working with animals.

The NIH notes that the activities involved with animal research and animal care, including the animals themselves add new elements of risk to the laboratory environment.

Up until very recently **AAALAC** cited issues with personnel safety as the number one finding on site visits. It still remains the second most commonly discussed issue.

In this update we offer some visual reminders regarding the use of safety equipment, remind you of the PPE needed to work with various species via the PPE Matrix, and advise you of the types of risks that can be involved in working in animal research.

FIELD RESEARCH CORNER of Safety
Field research presents its own special set of risk issues. (Cont'd page 5)



ASK Jamie?? (About Safety)

Dr. Helen Tripps-Lott
Asks: *Jamie, What are the kind of accidents that can happen in an animal laboratory?*



Jamie: Well NIH, AAALAC, and other sources list these common injuries associated with animal laboratory space:

- Burns from autoclaves etc.
- Chemical and substance exposure
- Muscular injuries, bruises, contusions from moving equipment
- Injuries due to falling on wet floors and slippery surfaces
- Puncture wounds from needles and sharps
- And of course Bites and scratches

Rex Easley Asks: *Jamie what can I do to improve safety in my laboratory?*

Jamie: That's a good question Rex

- Make sure you label those secondary containers, people need to know what's in them
- Don't overfill those sharps containers they have a fill line
- Remove chemicals and sharps from your workspace when you're done with them, a crowded area leads to accidents
- Don't skip items on your PPE, they are required for a reason
- Check your eye wash stations and safety showers regularly, trust me you won't have time when they are needed.

Guidelines for the Use of Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment in Animal Research

The University of Texas at Austin
Institutional Animal Care and Use
Committee

This document provides information regarding use of appropriate personal protective equipment that should be used by individuals working with and around research animals.

- Section A - Background
- Section B - Implementation: General Objectives
- Section C - Implementation: Species Specific
- Section D - References

Section A - Background

In addition to the oversight of animal welfare, institutional animal care and use committees are tasked with ensuring users of animals in research are able to work safely.

According to the Guide for Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (National Research Council, 2011):

An animal care and use program comprises all activities conducted by and at an institution that have a direct impact on the well-being of animals, including animal and veterinary care, policies and procedures, personnel and program management and oversight, occupational health and safety, institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC) functions, and animal facility design and management. A comprehensive Occupational and Health Safety Program (OHSP) should include a hierarchy of control and prevention strategies that begins with the identification of hazards and the assessment of risk associated with those hazards.

Managing risk involves the following steps: first, the appropriate design and operation of facilities and use of appropriate safety equipment (engineering controls); second, the development of processes and standard operating procedures (SOPs; administrative controls); and finally, the provision of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for employees.

Special safety equipment should be used in combination with appropriate management and safety practices (NIH 2002; OSHA 1998a,b). Managing risk using these strategies requires that personnel be trained, maintain good personal hygiene, be knowledgeable about the hazards in their work environment, understand the proper selection and use of equipment, follow established procedures, and use the PPE provided.

Section B - Implementation: General Objectives

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee has established the minimum required personal protective equipment (PPE) to be used by personnel while working with various species. University of Texas oversight committees (e.g. IBC), specific departments (e.g. EHS), specific animal housing facilities (e.g. ARC) and the type of work being done in specific projects (e.g. the use of biological materials) **may require the use of more PPE**. Researchers must not use less than these standards without explicit approved from the IACUC. You should contact the Occupational Health Office or EHS if you have questions regarding PPE.

The PPE guidelines for work with non-human primates can be found separate from this document. Refer to:

[Personal protective equipment \(PPE\) requirements for personnel working with non-human primates at UT-Austin.](#)

Section C - Implementation: Species Specific

Minimum PPE Policy Requirements for UT Vertebrate Animal Research Housing and Use Locations (Version 3 July 2018)

Species/type	Full coverage closed-toed shoes, long pants/dresses when in housing or lab use areas	Gloves worn	Scrubs, lab coat or isolation gown worn while inside housing rooms or actively handling animals in use areas	Mask worn when in housing rooms or actively handling animals in use areas (allergen or pathogen risks)	Additional foot protection	Hair bonnet worn when in housing rooms or actively handling animals in use areas	Eye/face protection
Rodents - conventional	Yes	Yes, when handling animals or entering housing rooms	Yes	Dust/surgical mask	No	No	No
Rodents – SPF & barrier (PPE is used for both containment and exclusion)	Yes	Yes, when handling animals or entering housing rooms	Yes	Dust/surgical mask	Shoe covers	Yes	No
Rodents – pathogens, toxins or chemicals	Yes	Yes, when handling animals or entering housing rooms; nitrile recommended (double or heavy duty are options)	Fluid resistant (elastic cuff recommended)	N95* likely (Consult with EHS)	Consult with EHS	Consult with EHS	Consult with EHS
Rabbits - standard	Yes	Yes, when handling animals or entering housing rooms	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Fish - standard	Yes	Yes, when handling fish	Lab coats recommended but not required unless chemical hazards	No	Non-slip shoes or rubber boots (for wet)	No	Yes (when splashes are likely)

Reptiles and Amphibians - standard	Yes	Yes, when handling animals	Yes	No	Non-slip shoes or rubber boots (for wet locations)	No	Yes (when splashes are likely)
Wild Rodents	Yes	Yes, when handling animals or entering housing rooms; nitrile recommended (+/- protective bite/scratch gloves)	Yes	N95*	Shoe covers	Yes	Safety glasses at a minimum
Rodents – field work (See also the Safety Guidelines for Field Researchers)	Yes	Yes, when handling animals, cages, traps and contaminated equipment; nitrile recommended (+/- protective bite/scratch gloves)	Yes, when actively handling rodents or contaminated traps	N95*, when actively handling rodents or contaminated traps	Protective footwear based on location (wet, rocky, ticks, snakes, etc.)	Protective headgear based on location (wet, sun exposure, mosquitoes, etc.)	Consult with EHS

*N95 Respirators require a Respirator Fit Test, Please contact the Occupational Health Program for more information.

For non-human primate precautions, please see the separate ["Personal protective equipment \(PPE\) requirements for personnel working with non-human primates at UT-Austin"](#) guidelines.

Section D - References

National Research Council. 2011. Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. National Academy Press, Washington, D.C. 220p.

The AIR We Breathe

Three Key Factors Required for a Respirator to be Effective



- ① The respirator must be put on correctly and worn during the exposure.
- ② The respirator must fit snugly against the user's face to ensure that there are no gaps between the user's skin and respirator seal.

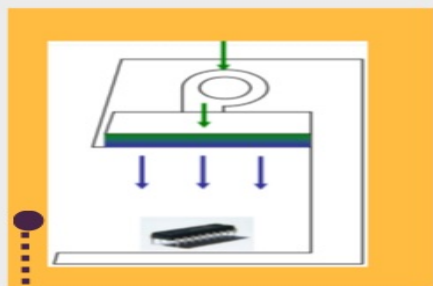
- ③ The respirator filter must capture more than 95% of the particles from the air that passes through it.

*If your respirator has a metal bar or a molded nose cushion, it should rest over the nose and not the chin area.



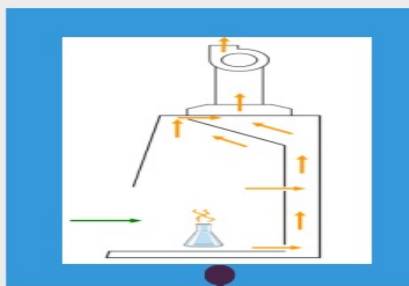
Canister Brand	Maximum Hours of Use	Maximum Weight Gain
Breath Fresh	12-15 hours	50 gm
f/air	12-15 hours	50 gm
Enviro-Pure	N/A	100-120 gm
VaporGuard	N/A	50 gm
VetOne Clean Aire Filter	12-15 hours	50 gm

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



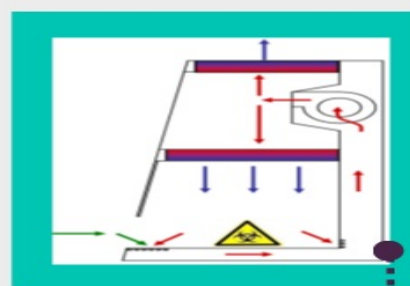
Laminar Flow

- Yes Sample Protection
- No Operator Protection



Fume Hood

- No Sample Protection
- Yes Operator Protection



Biosafety cabinet

- Yes Sample Protection
- Yes Operator Protection

Where's your first aid Kit??



Every area should have a first aid kit available.

A standard first aid kit should include but is not limited to the following:

- Band-Aids, Various Sizes
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- Small Scissors
- Gauze Pads Waterproof
- Tape Tweezers
- Chemical Cold Pack Antiseptic Wipes

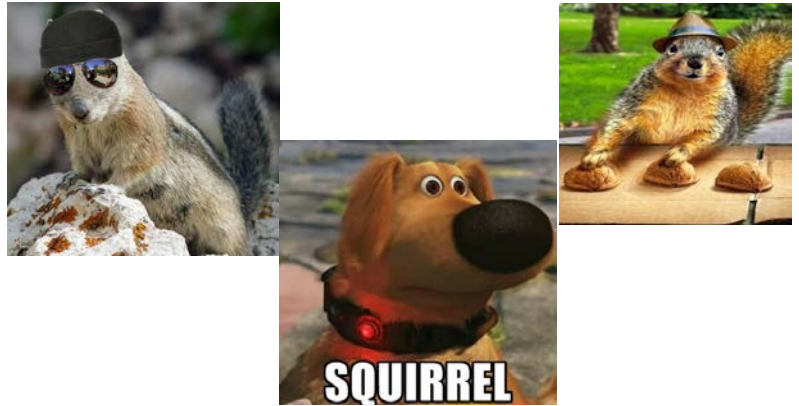
First aid kits should be checked regularly and any expired or missing items replaced. They should be easy to find and located in a public area within the work area. Make sure emergency, weekend and holiday staff have access to first aid kits and know how to report an injury.

Field Research Safety (Continued from page 1)

The Department of Environmental Health and Safety provides a guide on maintaining safety in field work. Here you will find information regarding biological and physical safety issues that may appear in the field and some advice on how to deal with them. This guide can be found here: <https://ehs.utexas.edu/programs/labsafety/documents/FieldResearchers-SafetyGuidelines.pdf>



Squirrely behavior on campus?



Recently the Occupational Health Program reported that they had treated individuals for bites from squirrels on campus.

The IACUC would like you to know that they do not condone of this behavior, and on a more serious note that you should have animal bites attended to. Besides immediate injury, bites can lead to transfer of many diseases including tetanus.

BUT according to the CDC small mammals such as squirrels, rats, mice, hamsters, guinea pigs, gerbils, chipmunks, rabbits, and hares are almost never found to be infected with rabies and have not been known to cause rabies among humans in the United States

Unlike dogs, when a squirrel wags its tail it is communication distrust and danger. Squirrels are very territorial and show a great deal of aggression towards other squirrels. A simple web search for aggressive squirrels will show plenty of news stories about aggressive squirrels and their human victims.

The best way to prevent squirrel aggression is to not let them get too comfortable in your territory including not feeding them. As with most wild animals easy access to food brings expectations and behavior.