

GUIDELINES REGARDING HEALTH AND SAFETY

PURPOSE:

The Liberty University IACUC is dedicated to the health and safety of all laboratory personnel working on approved IACUC protocols. Working with or around animals and their waste products can expose personnel to health and safety risks. The primary risk identified by the IACUC is the development or worsening of animal allergies. Another risk to be aware of is the possibility of zoonotic disease transmission; however, this is not as likely.

GUIDELINES:

Prior to starting work with animals in teaching or laboratory situations, it is recommended that personnel are properly evaluated by their primary care provider to determine the need for additional protective measures.

Allergy symptoms may include any or all of the following: sneezing, runny or stuffy nose, itchy or water eyes, cough, shortness of breath, or skin rash. **If at any time you suspect that you may be experiencing an allergy or other health effect related to animal exposure, contact emergency services or seek advice from your primary care provider (depending on the severity of the situation).**

SAFE LABORATORY PRACTICES

- Wear the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including:
 - Gloves
 - Lab Coat
 - Safety Glasses
- Know how to properly handle the species being used
- Observe and obey all laboratory signs and warnings
- Wash any animal bite or scratch immediately with disinfectant soap and notify the laboratory supervisor
- Seek proper medical attention following any injury or incident
- Practice good hygiene by washing hands frequently when in contact with animals
- Do not eat, chew gum, drink, store food, apply cosmetics, or smoke in any laboratory or animal facility