

# The University of Cincinnati Medical Evaluation and Preventive Medicine Program for Personnel with Occupational Exposure to Animals

## **I. General Information**

Federal guidelines require the University of Cincinnati to have a health and safety program for all individuals with occupational exposure to animals. The program is operated by University Health Services (UHS) with support from the Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) and Laboratory Animal Medical Services (LAMS).

## **II. Supervisor Responsibilities**

The supervisor is responsible for informing the individual of potential occupational exposures. This includes referring the individual to UHS when the individual is assigned to work with a new species.

## **III. Risk Assessment**

The occupational health risk depends on the species and health status of the animal, the type of work performed, and the extent of the individual's exposure to animals. The University of Cincinnati divides personnel into the following categories:

### **A. Category I**

- Personnel with limited or no animal contact who are under the direct oversight of LAMS and/or the direct supervision of trained UC staff
  - Examples: visiting scientists, medical students and physicians attending a surgery course, contractors, consultants, surgeons<sup>1</sup>, and maintenance personnel

### **B. Category II**

- Personnel with exposure to laboratory raised rodents and/or rabbits
- Personnel with exposure to amphibians, reptiles, or birds

### **C. Category III**

- Personnel with exposure to pigs, non-pregnant ruminants, and vaccinated carnivores

### **D. Category IV**

- Personnel with exposure to wild caught mammals
- Personnel with exposure to unvaccinated carnivores

### **E. Category V**

- Personnel with exposure to pregnant ruminants

<sup>1</sup> Surgeons are included into this category based upon the limited exposure of individuals who are fully scrubbed, gowned, masked and gloves working on a fully anesthetized covered animal. Therefore there is very limited allergen exposure potential.

#### **IV. Preventative Medicine**

The following preventive medicine services are provided as indicated by risk group. Other services may be necessary and are at the discretion of the health care provider. Individuals may opt out of the program or any of the services provided.

##### **A. Category I**

- Review Occupational Health and Safety fact sheet

##### **B. Category II**

- Online training course (pre-exposure and every 3 years)
- Health history questionnaire (pre-exposure and every 3 years)
- Tetanus immunization (recommended and offered)

##### **C. Category III – All category II requirements plus:**

- Physical examination with laboratory testing (offered as determined by a UHS)

##### **D. Category IV- All category II & III requirements plus:**

- Rabies vaccination / titer (offered as determined by a UHS)

##### **E. Category V – All category II & III requirements plus**

- Q Fever testing (offered as determined by a UHS)

#### **V. Follow-up Medical Care**

Occupational related health problems detected through history questionnaires, physical examinations, laboratory testing, or which are self-reported are followed up with appropriate diagnosis and treatment by UHS.

#### **VI. Hazard Avoidance**

UC recognizes that chemical, physical, biologic, and protocol related hazards are inherent to animal research. Risk assessments are performed and appropriate measures are taken by the relevant safety offices and committees to ensure that risks are mitigated.

#### **VII. Reporting Injuries/Health Issues**

##### **A. For emergencies**

- Call 911 or 8-9111 from a UC phone
- Seek treatment at UC Medical Center or at the nearest available facility
- Inform the medical provider at the time of treatment that this is a work- related injury
- See UHS Advisory 12.2

##### **B. Non-emergencies**

- Notify your supervisor
- Report to University Health Services (UHS) for medical treatment during business hours or the closest emergency room after hours
- Inform the medical provider at the time of treatment that this is a work-related injury
- See UHS Advisory 12.2