



## Laboratory Animal Facilities



## Laboratory Animal Facilities Occupational Health & Safety Plan

- f. Animal Care Workers are responsible for:
  - i. complying with the H&S Plan.
- g. Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) is responsible for:
  - ii. monitoring adherence with the plan while conducting facility reviews and audits
  - iii. assuring training is available for all animal program participants.

### 3. Hazards

- a. **Biological hazards** include allergies and zoonotic diseases caused by the animal. Allergies, which are the result of hypersensitive reaction to a chemical or physical substance, are a common health hazard caused by rodents. Symptoms may include runny nose, watery eyes, sneezing, shortness of breath, and asthma. Hives or skin rashes have also occurred from direct contact with animal hair or skin. Personnel who have a history of allergies are at a higher risk of developing symptomatic reactions. Allergies to lab animals can be diagnosed based on patient medical history, physical examination, and skin testing.

Zoonotic diseases are diseases transmitted between animals and man. The risk of disease with laboratory rodents is very low. Reputable vendors provide protective measures and environments for their animals. As a result, laboratory rodents are practically free of human and most animal pathogens. Potential pathogens that can cause disease are the Lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus (LCMV) and the *Leptospiral* bacterium.

- b. **Chemical hazards** depend on numerous factors, including the chemical toxicity, the amount used, physical properties, i.e., vapor pressure, flammability, and application. Exposure, which can result from inhalation or skin contact, can cause various health effects depending on toxicity.
- c. **Radiological hazards** may be present from the use of radioisotopes. The associated hazard depends on the amount used and the type of emitter.
- d. **Physical hazards** include animal bites or scratches. Exposure to these hazards can cause adverse health affects, including pain, respiratory distress, infection, or disease transmission.

### 4. Hazard Controls







## Laboratory Animal Facilities Occupational Health & Safety Plan

bitten or scratched by an animal should thoroughly clean and disinfect the wound and report to medical services, as soon as possible for treatment. The injured person should report to the nearest emergency room hospital, if the DU subcontracted medical services provider



# Laboratory Animal Facilities Occupational Health & Safety Plan

## **Appendix 1 Acknowledgement of Animal Room Visitor**

Laboratory animals can potentially cause an allergic reaction in some people. Symptoms may