Occupational Health & Safety Information for Animal Facility Guests

PLEASE NOTE

❖ If you have been in contact or exposed to rodents within the past 72 hours, please disclose this to the Animal Facility Director or Animal Facility Supervisor in the Animal Resource Center (ARC) SC-561 who will assess and determine whether access to the animal facility is appropriate.

❖ All animal facility visitors must wear a lab coat upon entering the facility. The Animal Facility Director or Supervisor may determine that additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is necessary (e.g., you work in another animal facility or you are exposed to other animals on a regular basis). All PPE, including lab coats, gloves, shoe covers, masks, etc. are available in Schroeder Complex Room 561 (ARC Main Office).

❖ Animal facility guests are not allowed to touch or handle animals, go into any animal room or enter any animal procedural room.

Diseases communicable from animals to humans – Zoonoses STATEMENT:

Humans may be susceptible to infectious diseases suffered by animals. Infectious diseases transmitted from animals to humans are called zoonotic diseases. In many cases the animals show little, if any sign of illness. A bacterium from the normal flora of a healthy animal may cause a serious disorder in a person exposed to it. While the animals may have “resistance” to these microorganisms, humans with no previous exposure to the agent may lack this protection. Therefore, one should always be aware of the possible consequences of working with animals and take appropriate precautions to minimize the risk of infection. In the event that you do become ill, it is important that you inform your primary care physician that you work with or have been exposed to animals. Some common sense steps can be taken to decrease the risk of infection. These include cleanliness such as hand washing. You can protect yourself against accidental self-inoculation of a zoonotic disease by wearing gloves, respirators, or other personal safety gear while touring the animal facility.

Be aware that laboratory animals (particularly rats, rabbits, guinea pigs, and hamsters) are sources of potent allergens to sensitized persons. Repeated exposure may lead to a more serious problem such as occupational asthma.

Hazardous agents STATEMENT:

Methods exist for monitoring exposure to potentially hazardous biological, chemical, and physical agents. Protective devices are used, and other safety practices consistent with safety guidelines should be adopted for this facility. Potentially hazardous chemicals in the animal laboratory and animal facility include disinfectants, cleaning agents, pesticides and anesthetics.
Pregnancy risks STATEMENT:

If you are pregnant or may be pregnant, avoid touring areas where hazardous agents including radioactive material is used or stored. Inhalation of toxic chemicals and certain anesthetic vapors should be avoided especially during the first trimester of pregnancy.

I HAVE REVIEWED THE ABOVE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY INFORMATION, HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO ANIMALS, AND AM PREPARED TO TOUR THE ANIMAL FACILITY AS A GUEST.

______________________________
Tour Participant Name (print)

______________________________
Tour Participant Signature

______________________________
Name of Person Giving Tour (print)

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Signature of Person Giving Tour

Contacts:
Mr. Jim Schabla, PA – OHS Coordinator: 414-288-6654; james.schabla@marquette.edu
Mr. Austin Fritsch – Director: 414-288-6654; austin.fritsch@marquette.edu
Mrs. Alecia Bjerke – Supervisor: 414-288-4578; alecia.treml@marquette.edu