

**PARKER UNIVERSITY  
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM**

**I. INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE**

- a. It is the policy of Parker University to comply with all pertinent Federal, State, and local regulations regarding the provision of personnel health programs for individuals who have animal contact. All persons involved in animal research, care, and handling, shall participate in the University occupational health and safety program. The occupational health and safety program for personnel who work in laboratory animal facilities or have frequent contact with animals is as follows:
- i) Supervisors (department chairs, faculty and other University employees or affiliates who have oversight of University employees, students, or other individuals) are responsible for implementing this policy with individuals under their supervision.
  - ii) Hazards to personnel and training on safeguards appropriate to the risks are provided including completion of training on zoonoses, chemical safety, and physical hazards, animal care and handling, allergies, handling of waste materials, anesthesia and surgical techniques if applicable, acceptable euthanasia methods, categories of pain-distress, procedures to minimize pain and distress, alternatives to animal models, through AALAS learning library is required. Specific lessons include, working with the laboratory mouse, introduction to mice, and introduction to rats.
  - iii) A risk assessment on campus laboratories indicates minimal risk since only laboratory-bred rats and mice are permitted in these facilities. A risk assessment for personnel is done by completing a health questionnaire (Attachment A). Principal investigators ensure that all personnel working in animal laboratory facilities complete a health questionnaire to assess their level risk based on the level of exposure to animals. Risks are categorized into levels from I-IV.
  - iv) When an individual risk assessment indicates that medical and or preventative medicine is necessary, arrangements with local medical providers are made by the college. Tetanus immunization or prophylaxis is offered to all personnel with animal contact.
  - v) Precautions are taken in cases where additional risks such as pregnancy, illness or immune compromise is present. This includes making accommodations to reduce the risk to the individual.
    - (1) Individuals with suspected allergies are encouraged to seek evaluation by health treatment personnel including employees at risk for developing work related allergies or those with a history of pre-existing allergies or asthma.
    - (2) Individuals of childbearing potential are warned to be especially cautious when working with toxins. These individuals must use appropriate protective apparel (especially gloves) to prevent skin contact. Pregnant women and women intending to become pregnant should seek advice from knowledgeable sources before working with substances that are suspected to be reproductive toxins, including their supervisor, Material Safety Data Sheets, and physician. These individuals must notify supervisors of all incidents of exposure or spills; consult a qualified physician when appropriate.
    - (3) Documentation on risk assessment and training is kept by the principal investigator with copies sent to IACUC and Safety Officer/Human Resources. All job related injuries and illness are reported to the Safety Officer/Human Resources and appropriate precautions/treatment are taken. All records of illness

or injures will maintained by the Safety Officer/Human Resources for a period of seven years.

- (4) Personal hygiene, and facility cleanliness is promoted for a safe environment. Personal protective equipment including, masks, gloves, aprons and lab coats are provided. Shower/decontamination facilities are available as needed. Fume hoods, bio-safety cabinets and protective clothing including gloves, gowns, masks, respirators, eye protection, disposable aprons, shoe covers, and lab coats are provided to all personnel as needed. Personnel must dress accordingly to enter animal holding areas. Street clothing must be covered with appropriate attire, e.g., a laboratory coat or gown. All staff is trained to wash their hands/dispose of gloves prior to leaving an animal room/work. Eating, drinking, smoking, or personal items such as coats, cosmetics, etc., are prohibited in any animal room.