

**Occupational Health and Safety Program for Animal Workers  
Western Illinois University**

In accordance with the Public Health Service Policy on Humane



5. Add the numbers to reach a total risk rating. A risk rating of **Serious (11-15)** means the hazard must be attended to immediately, prior to the commencement of the job. Controls must be put into place. A safe job procedure must be in place prior to the commencement of the job. **Moderate (6-10)** means the hazard requires attention. Controls should be put into place. A safe work procedure should be in place prior to the commencement of the job, but could be attended to once the job has commenced. Employees must be aware of the hazard. The safe work procedure must be in place prior to the completion of the job. **Low (3-5)** means the hazard requires monitoring. Controls are recommended. A safe work procedure is recommended.

### **Hazard Controls**

Depending on the risk rating, if the hazard cannot be eliminated, the controls must be implemented to reduce the risk. There are three types of controls: engineering, administrative, and personal protective equipment (PPE). Some examples of the controls are:

#### Engineering controls

- Design of workplace
- Automation/material handling devices
- Machine guard, interlocks, lockouts, warning devices
- Isolation/enclosure
- Limitation (safety valves)
- Ventilation (general dilution/local exhaust)
- Storage
- Air monitoring devices
- Communication devices

#### Administrative controls

- Substitution of a less toxic product
- Purchasing criteria (tools, equipment, chairs, etc.)
- Policies and procedures
- Training
- Organizing and planning work
- Rotation of workers
- Safety plan/procedure

#### Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Hard hat
- Goggles
- Hearing protectors
- Safety boots
- T-shirts with 4 inch sleeves
- Respiratory protective equipment
- Fall protection



## **Zoonosis**

### **Rat-bite Fever**

Every person working or in contact with animals should be aware of the potential danger from animal bites. In addition to the danger of tetanus there are relatively rare diseases such as "rat-bite fever" which are transmitted from animals.

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4. Laboratory coats should be worn over street clothes when animals are being worked with. This will decrease the contamination of street clothing. These laboratory clothes should be left in the lab and should not be worn during eating.

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5. No jewelry should be worn that can be caught in equipment or carry infectious materials.

6. All work surfaces should be appropriately decontaminated daily and after any spill of animal related materials. A freshly prepared dilution of 1:10 bleach in water is recommended and proven effective. Other EPA approved disinfectants may also be used.

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Employees: Workman's compensation program should be utilized for related expenses.

Injuries requiring medical treatment need to be reported to the CS-OSP. See attached form. All medical information is kept confidential.

**Reference:**

Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Institute of Laboratory

**Occupational Health and Safety Program for Animal Workers  
Western Illinois University  
Accident / Incident Report**

**Location of occurrence** 103

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