

5 H V H D U F K Animal
& R Q W D F W D B U R
Handbook

Florida Institute of Technology

Office of 5 H V H D U F K

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1. OVERVIEW OF 5 (6 (\$ 5 & + ANIMAL CONTACT PROGRAM

The Florida Institute of Technology 5 H V H D U F K \$ Q L P D O & R Q W D F W includes a medical monitoring and an education component. Medical monitoring is based on the type and frequency of exposure to animals and consists of a risk assessment, follow-up assessments and, tests/immunizations. It is part of the University's Office of Research (OOR). The education section provides individuals with health information specific to animal contact and promotes safe working practices.

The OOR and the Institutional Animal Use and Care Committee (IACUC) jointly oversee the 5 H V H D U F K \$ Q L P D O & R Q W D F W. The OOR Health Center (HHC) is the medical provider for the program, D Q G F D Q E H U H D F K H 7 6 O O R maintains the L V N \$ V V H V V P H Q W) R U P

This 5 H V H D U F K \$ Q L P D O & R Q W D F W provide information for individuals working with animals in the laboratory, their tissues or animals being studied in the field.

Short term visitors from other institutions should provide to the OOR evidence of current participation in a medical surveillance program at their home institution. Without such documentation, visitors will be required to participate in the FIT 5 H V H D U F K \$ Q L P D O & R Q W D F W 3 U R J U D P. Individuals involved in one-time, non-recurrent exposures shall be informed of potential dangers and medical precautions, and are not required to participate in the program. The primary responsible party (principal investigator R I W K H) S H A R E R E S P O N S I B L E for assuring compliance with the notification requirements for these individuals. No work with animals or their tissues is permitted prior to enrollment in the 5 H V H D U F K \$ Q L P D O & R Q W D F W 3 U R J U D P.

The program requirements are based on the type of exposure to animals. Employee identification and tracking will be managed jointly by IACUC and the Office of 5 H V H D U F K.

Individuals with animal contact shall be provided the 5 H V H D U F K \$ Q L P D O & R Q W D F W handbook. They shall be included in a risk assessment program that covers contact, immunization history and health questionnaire. The risk assessment will be updated a periodic basis. An exit evaluation upon termination of an employee's animal work will be offered by the Holzer Health Center.

F Human Allergies to Animals

Allergy to animal hair and dander is common and therefore one of the most important occupational problems occurring in workers exposed to animals. Allergic reactions are expressed in a number of ways including allergic rhinitis (a condition characterized by runny nose and sneezing similar to hay fever); by allergic conjunctivitis (irritation and tearing of the eyes); by asthma, or by atopic dermatitis (a skin condition which is caused by contact with a substance to which an individual is allergic). Allergy to animals is particularly common in workers exposed to animals such as cats, rabbits, mice, rats, gerbils and guinea pigs. There is still some controversy regarding exactly what substance causes the allergy in a certain individual. Previously it had been thought that most allergies were caused by dander and debris from the skin and fur of an animal. More recent studies seem to suggest that exposure to animal urine, saliva and fecal matter may be equally or more important. Exposure to animal urine may occur either through direct urine contact with skin or more commonly by inhaling dust from the bottom of a cage which has been contaminated with urine and fecal material.

G. Rabies

Rabies is a relatively rare and devastating viral disease which results in severe neurological problems and death. Most cases of rabies occur in wild carnivores although any mammal

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Field work presents potential occupational health and safety hazards such as disease transmission and trauma related to conflict with wildlife. General field safety procedures include:

- ¥ Understand the hazards and follow safety precautions described to you by your course instructors, academic advisors, etc.
- ¥ Notify course instructors, academic advisors, etc. of any disability or medical condition that may impact your safety
- ¥ Carry first aid and antiseptic kits, allergy medication
- ¥ Use field PPE such as long pants and sleeves, close-toed shoes, sturdy gloves
- ¥ Make sure immunizations are current
- ¥ Carry identification with allergy information
- ¥ Immediately report any accident, injury, or illness

For additional information, see the following manual designed by the National Park Service as a guide for field staff to help prevent zoonotic disease exposure.
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