

PI Name:

Safety Protocol for Working with Animals

1. Hazard Communication Statement

2. Notification

Notify your DLAR supervisor via email 2 weeks before initiating work with this agent and provide a copy of this form.

3. Use of DLAR procedures or housing rooms

During manipulations of the biohazardous agent, all precautions outlined in agent-specific protocol will be followed. When procedures with infectious agents or toxins are performed in a DLAR procedure or housing room, it is the investigator's responsibility that proper signage is displayed *during* the procedure to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering the room. Signage must be *removed* once the area has been decontaminated.

4. Signage for Cages and Animal Housing Rooms

The ABSL must be clearly marked on the housing room. For agents that can be downgraded from ABSL-2 to ABSL-1, cages must be marked with time and day immediately following dosing.

5. Animal and Cage Handling Procedures (Please check all that apply)

For guidance you may contact the BSO Dr. Christina Voelkel-Johnson at (843) 792-3125 or johnsocv@musc.edu

- Project requires disposable cages.
- This project requires isolation from other animals.
- Standard PPE includes gown, gloves, and face mask. This protocol requires additional PPE:
- Cage requires filter top
- Cage will not be opened for 72 hours after administration of infectious agent(s). In an emergency during this time cages will be opened only in a biosafety cabinet or while wearing proper ABSL-2 PPE to protect mucous membranes of eyes, nose, mouth.
- Cage will be opened only in a biosafety cabinet or while wearing proper ABSL-2 PPE to protect mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cage and bedding must be autoclaved before disposal. Leave cages in housing room with lids on.
- Remove and dispose of PPE after leaving the room and before entering any other room. Wash hands or use alcohol gel for disinfection.
- Signs and symptoms indicative of complications associated with the agent, if any:

6. Transport

Rodents that have been treated with an infectious agent and that must be moved within the animal facility or between the animal facility and a laboratory must be transported in a cage fitted with a filter top. Cages must be secured to prevent accidental release of animals and bedding.

Biological material removed from animals that have been treated with BSL-2 agents must be transported to the investigator's laboratory in a sealed primary container inside a sealed durable and leak proof secondary containment labeled with a biohazard sticker. The outside of transport containers, both primary and secondary, must be disinfected prior to removal from the animal facility. Service elevators should be used for transport to minimize exposure of the public to animals harboring biohazardous materials.

7. Disposal of Animal Carcasses

The carcasses of animals treated with are to be bagged (double bagged for ABSL-2) in red biohazard bags and stored in the animal facility freezer for subsequent incineration. Investigators are responsible for maintaining a permanent record of animal use and disposition for each animal or group of animals.

8. Emergency procedures

Spills of bedding or secretions (blood, urine, feces, etc.) from infected animals

- 1) Notify workers in the area.
- 2) Leave the area for 15 minutes to allow aerosols to settle or be removed by the room's air changes. Replace contaminated PPE.
- 3) Upon return, place paper towels over the spill and treat with bleach to obtain a minimum concentration of 10% final concentration.
- 4) Allow 30 minutes of contact time for disinfection.
- 5) Place paper towels in biohazard bags.
- 6) Use dustpan and broom to sweep up bedding or other solid waste.
- 7) Wipe the spill area clean using 10% bleach.
- 8) Dispose of contaminated PPE in autoclavable biohazard bags and tape bags shut.

In the event of injury or exposure (including animal bites*):

- 1) **CLEANSE WOUND:** Wash all wounds immediately with antiseptic soap and a high volume of water for at least 5 minutes, 10 minutes if extensive or extremely dirty. Scrub wound enough to make it re-bleed a little to help clean the wound.
- 2) **CONTROL BLEEDING**
- 3) **SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL FOLLOW-UP** (*do not wait 24 hrs*)
Employees *and* students go to:
 - **Employee Health Services** (during business hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 am -4 pm).
Address/Location: 57 Bee Street, Charleston SC 29425; Phone: (843) 792-2991
 - **MUSC Emergency Room** (after business hours)
Address/Location: 96 Jonathan Lucas Street, Charleston SC 29425
- 4) **REPORT EXPOSURE IMMEDIATELY** to your supervisor or Principal Investigator and notify Biosafety Officer
- 5) **NOTIFY** Employee Health Services within 24 hrs: File a Workplace Injury form at [Care Team](#)

***Information regarding animal bites**

Definition: An animal bite or exposure is defined as having one's skin pierced or abraded by an animal's teeth or claws, or by animal saliva or tissue coming in contact with abraded skin, eyes or mucous membranes.

By signing below I attest that I have read and understood these safety instructions and agree to adhere to these rules at all times. Furthermore, I feel I have been properly notified and trained of the hazards in this laboratory and animal facilities.

Name (print)

Signature

_____	_____	Date: _____
_____	_____	Date: _____