PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this Animal Care and Use Procedure (ACUP) is to describe the proper attire required for working in designated animal areas. This ACUP is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Any deviation must be approved by the IACUC prior to its application.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This document applies to all persons entering animal facilities at (or part of) Cornell University.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1. This ACUP outlines the procedures for utilizing the basic level Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) within Cornell animal facilities. Specific facilities, projects, and most notably Biosafety level 2 & 3 rooms, will require extra or study-specific PPE. Contact the Center for Animal Resources and Education (CARE) at Cornell University by emailing care@cornell.edu for more information or for assistance.

3.2. The Animal Users Health and Safety Program (AUHSP) determines the PPE requirements.

3.3. Consult appropriate PPE signage at the entrance of the room or facility for any specific requirements.

NOTE: Clothing and PPE designated for animal areas should not be worn in public areas.

4. MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT

4.1. PPE Sign (see appendix for an example)
4.2. Dedicated work clothes or outer protective clothing (e.g., lab coat, scrubs, gown, Tyvek suit)
4.3. Gloves
4.4. Mucous membrane, respiratory protection (e.g., face masks, respirators)
4.5. Eye and facial protection (e.g., safety glasses, face shield, splash goggles)
4.6. Foot protection (e.g., dedicated foot wear, shoe / boot covers)
4.7. Hearing protection (e.g., ear plugs, ear muffs)

5. PROCEDURE

5.1. General Considerations and Outerwear

5.1.1. Wear dedicated work clothes or outer protective clothing (e.g., lab coat, scrubs, gown, Tyvek suit) in animal facilities, especially when:

5.1.1.1. Handling animals;
5.1.1.2. In areas with infected animals, their waste or bodily fluids;
5.1.1.3. In areas with infectious, radioactive and / or chemical hazard;
5.1.1.4. In areas with Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) animals maintained in a barrier facility.

5.1.2. Keep clean clothes available and change as often as needed. Single use, disposable clothing is preferred. Provide laundry service at the workplace for reusable clothing. If laundry service is unavailable, bag and autoclave clothing prior to laundering at home.

5.1.3. Restrict clothes to a given group of animals with the same health status (e.g., same room, same herd, similar infectious status). Do not wear the same clothes outside the facility (i.e., in public areas).

5.1.4. Cover legs, feet, and arms when working with chemical, infectious, or radioactive hazards.

5.2. Hands

5.2.1. Wear gloves whenever there is contact with animals, urine, feces, blood, or other biological fluids, infectious, chemical, or radioactive hazards.

5.2.2. Change gloves frequently to minimize fomite contamination within the animal room. Use of double gloves (i.e., outer and inner pairs) facilitates frequent PPE changing within an area while preventing skin contact.

5.2.3. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water, or use an alcohol sanitizer at the end of the procedure or upon leaving the facility.

5.3. Face, Eyes

5.3.1. Utilize a face mask if there is a risk of splashing or droplet exposure to mucous membranes.

5.3.2. Wear protective glasses or protective glasses and a face shield (face shields alone are not a substitute for appropriate eyewear) whenever there is a risk of exposure or physical injury to the face/eyes.

5.3.3. Regular eyeglasses used to correct vision are not considered protective; wear additional protective glasses or protective glasses and a face shield.

5.3.4. If there is a risk of splashing with chemical hazards, wear splash goggles in place of protective glasses.
5.4. Respiratory

5.4.1. Consult with Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) to determine the need for respiratory protection against airborne hazardous materials and allergens. Respiratory protection includes disposable respirators such as N95 filtering face pieces.

5.4.2. If respiratory protection is required, you must enroll in the Respiratory Protection Program.

5.5. Hearing Protection

5.5.1. Hearing protection may be necessary when working in areas or facilities where noise may be a concern (e.g., areas with large numbers of dogs or chickens, cage washing equipment).

5.5.2. Personnel who are exposed to 85 decibels or greater (when averaged over an eight hour work day) will need to participate in Cornell’s Hearing Conservation Program Consult with EH&S to determine your exposure.

5.6. Footwear

5.6.1. Wear disposable shoe covers whenever working with:

5.6.1.1. Infected animals or their waste;
5.6.1.2. Infectious or radioactive hazards.

5.6.2. Closed-toed shoes must be worn in animal facilities.

5.6.3. Dedicated working shoes or shoe covers are recommended when working with SPF animals inside a barrier. These working shoes should not be worn outside the facility.

5.6.4. Shoes / boots can be a vector for infectious agents. Have a foot bath and / or boot wash station available at the entrance and/or the exit of the facility.

6. PERSONNEL SAFETY

6.1. Medical Emergencies: CALL 911.

6.2. When working with animals wear appropriate PPE, observe proper hygiene, and be aware of allergy, zoonosis, and injury risks. Refer to the CARE Occupational Health and Safety webpage for more information.

7. ANIMAL RELATED CONTINGENCIES

7.1. NA

8. REFERENCES

8.1. CARE Occupational Health and Safety webpage:
http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/OHS.html
8.2. Cornell University’s Animal Users Health and Safety Program (AUHSP): http://www.oria.cornell.edu/AUHSP/
8.3. Cornell University’s Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S): https://sp.ehs.cornell.edu/Pages/Home.aspx

9. APPENDIX

9.1. Example PPE Sign

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