# Guidelines for Animal Laboratory Visitors

## Procedures for Entering Investigator Laboratories
- All visits should be scheduled with and approved by the principal investigator or laboratory supervisor prior to the visit (provide a timeline to prevent last minute requests, and notify the PI if you have been in another animal facility that day)
- Always read posted signs before entering any laboratory space or animal room

## Rules and Regulations Protecting Animals in Research
- The Animal Welfare Act, Public Health Service Policy, and UPenn’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) are all ways we ensure the proper care of animals used in research - it is the LAW!
- Some of the rules established for research animal include: regular inspections of animal facilities and research laboratories; humane care and use of all animals used in research; adequate veterinary care; proper training for those working with or near the animals; enrichment including exercise for dogs; psychological well-being for non-human primates (NHPs); the use of proper medication to alleviate pain or distress; limiting the number of procedures performed on a single animal; and all animal work MUST first be approved by the IACUC (through submission of a protocol)

## Animal Health
- We only purchase research animals from recognized approved vendors
- Disease outbreaks are prevented through monitoring of the health status of the animals by ULAR veterinary and diagnostic staff in animal facilities on a regular basis
- Sick animals are treated by veterinary staff when necessary

## Human Safety
### Experimental Agents
- Researchers use appropriate experimental agents
- Most agents are used in an inactive form in small quantities and are species-specific
- If you follow proper procedures you are highly protected and safe in most animal areas
- If there is an area in which you need to take special precautions or will have a higher risk of exposure, you will be notified via posted signage - always be sure to read door signs before entering rooms!

## Additional Ways We Keep Humans Safe
- Limiting access to facilities
- Establishing specific traffic patterns in animal housing areas
- Programmed air flow and containment areas
- Providing personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed

## Reminders
- Always wear the PPE listed on animal facility door signs
- Never eat, drink, or smoke in animal areas and lab areas
- Always wash your hand when leaving the area

## Working in Non-Human Primate Areas
- TB test/clearance required every year
- Herpes B training required prior to working with NHPs (but not if you are only walking through the NHP facility)
- Be extra cautious working in these areas as some NHPs could carry a rare disease (e.g., Herpes B) that can be fatal to humans - we have never had this disease in our animals at UPenn but we treat every NHP like it is positive
- If you are ever injured in an NHP room immediately apply first aid (see below), then head DIRECTLY to Occupational Medicine (if you are a UPenn Employee) or the emergency room of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (see next section for medical service locations)
  - First aid for a bite, wound, or scratch - wash affected area with a Betadine®-soaked scrub brush for 15 minutes
  - First aid for a splash - irrigate eyes, nose, mouth with water for 15 minutes

## Health Concerns and Injuries
- If you experience any allergy symptoms such as skin rash, sneezing, and/or coughing when entering areas containing animals, you should visit Occupational Medicine (if a UPenn employee), Student Health Services (if a UPenn student), or your primary care physician
- If a UPenn employee is injured after hours, or if a non-UPenn visitor is injured at any time, please have them go to the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania (HUP) emergency room
  - Medical Service Locations
  - Occupational Medicine = 3400 Spruce Street, 2nd Floor Ravdin Bldg, 215-662-2367 (for any work related injury/health concern)
  - Student Health Services = 3535 Market Street, 215-746-3535
  - HUP Emergency Room = 3400 Spruce Street, 215-662-3920