Principal Investigator: Date Approved:

**Animal Biosafety Level 2 and 2+ Containment**

This SOP applies to handling animals that require Animal Biosafety Level (ABSL) 2 and/or ABSL2+ containment.

Exposing animals to biohazardous materials (e.g., human cells/materials, viral vectors, human and animal pathogens) increases the risk for personnel exposure via bites/scratches or loss of containment (e.g., escaped infectious animal). Containment guidelines for handling animals at ABSL2/2+ are designed to protect personnel and the environment.

**Personal Protective Equipment**

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**Engineering Controls, Equipment, and Materials**

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| **Animal Caging** | Rigid, non-porous, leak-proof container appropriately sized for the animal with a fitted lid and biohazard label |
| **Biosafety Cabinet (BSC)** | Enclosed, ventilated laboratory workspace that protects the worker from aerosols |
| **Biohazard Sharps Container** | Rigid, non-porous, leak-proof, puncture-resistant container with a tight-fitting lid and appropriate label(s) |
| **Biohazard Waste Container and Bag** | Non-porous, leak-resistant, “biohazard”-labeled container lined with a red biohazard waste bag |
| **Cage Washer** | Mechanical washer to wash animal cages at ≥180 °F |
| **Disinfectant** | Appropriate to the agent(s) (see Decontamination and Disinfection SOP) |

**Procedures**

1. Don and doff PPE according to instructions posted at facility entrances and exits (see Donning and Doffing PPE SOP)
2. Follow all facility instructions while working within the ABSL2/2+ facility
3. Ensure an agent summary is posted at the facility door to provide hazard communication
4. Open cages only within a certified BSC
5. Perform all small animal procedures within a BSC (e.g., injection/inoculation, surgery, necropsy, tissue harvest)
6. Add biohazard label, name of agent and date of administration to cage card
7. Dispose of animal bedding, cages and accessories as biohazardous waste
8. Dispose of animal tissues or carcass waste as pathology waste (see Biohazardous Animal: Disposal SOP)
9. Decontaminate non-disposable cages and accessories within the ABSL2/2+ facility and wash cages in a washer at minimum 180 °F (see Biohazardous Animal: Cage Changing & Washing SOP)
10. Wash hands with soap and water immediately after exiting facility (see Hand Sanitation SOP)

**Cautions and Considerations**

* ABSL facilities must have secured access controls. Restrict access to other individuals
* EHS and Lab/Core-specific training are required for access. Visit the IBC website for training information (<https://ibc.utah.edu/training.php>).
* The type of eye protection required depends on the procedure and agents
* Work outside of a BSC at ABSL2/2+ requires IBC approval and additional PPE
* Live animals must not be transferred out of ABSL2/2+ containment without specific IBC & IACUC approval
* Consult with EHS or the Office of Comparative Medicine for proper handling and disposal methods for animals exposed to non-biological materials (e.g., chemotherapeutic agents, radioisotopes, chemicals, poisons or toxins)
* Contact EHS Biosafety at 801-581-6590within 12 hours of an exposure to biohazardous materials