

NOTICE REGARDING POSSIBLE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH THE USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH OR EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Visitors involved in conducting or observing animal research or education at the University of Virginia (UVA) may be exposed to certain health risks including (*but not limited to*):

- Allergens associated with exposure to animals or animal products, such as dander, which may cause or worsen allergic reactions, including asthma and other serious conditions.
- Diseases transmittable between animals and humans (zoonoses) such as salmonella, Hepatitis E (swine), and Q fever (sheep). (Biohazard warning signs are posted at locations where animals have been purposefully infected with infectious agents.)
- Diseases spread by mosquitoes and ticks (field research stations only).
- CDC/NIH Guidelines State: “Persons with altered immunocompetence may be at increased risk when exposed to infectious agents.” Examples of conditions that can impair immunocompetence are AIDS, chemotherapy, and organ transplant.
- Noise. Especially in cagewash areas, and areas where dogs and swine are housed.
- Hazardous chemicals, including disinfectants and sanitizing agents.

Generally, the exposure that you as a visitor might experience creates only a very low risk to your personal health, although some medical conditions could increase the potential adverse consequences of exposure. With consideration of these risks and risk factors, the University of Virginia’s Animal Care and Use Committee (ACUC) strongly advises you to participate in the Occupational Medicine/Health program at your home institution. If no such program exists, consult with your personal physician about your anticipated animal-related activities. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the University of Virginia’s ACUC Office at 434-924-0405.

By signing this notice, you acknowledge the following:

- I understand that activities I might participate in involve certain risks to my health, and that my current health condition could worsen as a consequence of exposure.
- I understand that information about occupational health risks is available from the UVA ACUC Office or Office of Environmental Health and Safety at my request.
- I understand and accept that the University of Virginia and its employees cannot guarantee my safety while performing activities associated with my animal research work/observation. I promise not to seek compensation or initiate legal action against the University of Virginia, or any of its employees, for any harm suffered by me in the course of conducting or observing animal research unless such injury was caused by gross negligence, recklessness, or willful misconduct of officers or employees of the University of Virginia.

- I understand that I can obtain additional information related to animal use and associated requirements from the ACUC office. I further understand that it may be necessary for me to be added as an animal handler on an animal use protocol at the University of Virginia or my home institution.

Participant Name: _____
(Please Print)

Participant Signature: _____
If under 18, this form must be signed by a parent or legal guardian.

Email address: _____

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: _____
(If applicable)

Institutional/Company Affiliation: _____

UVA Principal Investigator or Host: _____
(Please Print)

UVA Principal Investigator or Host Signature¹: _____

Protocol Number (If applicable): _____

Purpose of Visit: _____

Date(s)/Duration of Visit: _____

Today's Date: _____

****** Return this completed form to the UVA ACUC office prior to visitor engagement in animal research or education.***

Email completed form to acuc@virginia.edu

Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee
560 Ray C. Hunt Drive, Suite 1201
PO Box 800832
Charlottesville, VA 22904
Fax: 434-982-4092

¹ As PI or Host, you are responsible for ensuring the participant receives adequate training for the procedures in which he/she will participate. If you believe that the participant should receive additional specialized training before or during participation, please refer them to the appropriate office, or to the ACUC office at 924-0405.