



OFFICE OF LABORATORY ANIMAL CARE

# Operating Guidelines

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## Procedures

1. Required Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Bat Users:
  - a. The MINIMUM PPE that must be worn by personnel when entering a bat free flight housing room, or any time when there is a reasonable expectation of exposure to bat body fluids (e.g., blood, saliva, urine), such as when handling animals, during daily cleaning, or performing surgery:
    - Lab coat or disposable gown over scrubs, dedicated clothing, or street clothes (street clothes must not allow leg skin exposure)
    - Gloves
    - Surgical mask
    - Eye protection (face shield, safety goggles, or safety glasses)
    - Shoe covers
    - Hair bonnet
    - Lab coats must be laundered weekly
  - b. With additional risk of aerosol exposure to bat species body fluids or waste products (such as during power spraying of colony housing room), personnel MUST also wear the following PPE in addition to PPE listed in above:
    - Scrubs or designated clothing that does not leave the vivarium
    - Waterproof or Tyvek suit
    - Waterproof boot covers or designated waterproof boots
    - Scratch-resistant gloves when handling cages (e.g., thicker latex or nitrile disposable gloves)
    - Respiratory protection (PAPR or N95)

- c. With additional risk of bite/scratch exposure to bat species or waste products during handling and cage manipulation, personnel MUST also wear the following PPE in addition to PPE listed in above:
    - Approved thick gloves
    - Tyvek sleeves (when wearing a disposable gown)
2. When bats are housed in cages for experimental or health-related reasons in a procedure room approved for housing, the following PPE must be worn:
  - a. Lab coat or disposable gown over scrubs, dedicated clothing, or street clothes (street clothes must not allow leg skin exposure)
  - b. Gloves
  - c. Surgical mask
  - d. Eye protection (face shield, safety goggles, or safety glasses)
3. Laboratory spaces:
  - a. While bats are fully enclosed in a tertiary container (e.g., procedure room, acoustic chamber, and cage), the following PPE must be worn:
    - Lab coat or disposable gown
    - Gloves
4. When the door to the secondary container is opened, the PPE requirements are:
  - a. Lab coat or disposable gown
  - b. Gloves
5. When taking an animal out of its cage for transport to and from the laboratory or when performing physical exams:
  - a. Keep on all PPE worn in the room- a second set of gloves and shoe/boot covers should be worn.
    - Discard the second set when leaving the housing area.
  - b. Place the bat in an approved individual transport cage or cloth bag.
  - c. Place the transport cage inside an approved opaque secondary transportation container.
    - Remove and discard PPE prior to traveling through common areas of the facility.
    - Upon arrival at your destination, don new clean PPE.
  - d. Personnel transporting bats must be cleared by Occupational Health and Safety and must have received training by an OLAC trainer.
6. During periods of suspected or confirmed disease outbreak, minimum PPE requirements may be modified by a veterinarian in consultation with EH&S based on risk to personnel.
7. Protection from Rabies Virus:
  - a. Humans who have contact with bats or their body products/tissues may be exposed to rabies virus through bites, scratches, contaminated needle sticks and other routes.
  - b. Appropriate protection should always be used.
8. Experimental or Veterinary Procedures:
  - a. All persons working with bats, or their tissues must be enrolled in the OLAC Occupational Health Program before gaining access to the bat areas.
    - Enrollment health care requirements must be maintained.

- If enrollment lapses, permission to work with bats or their products/tissues also lapses.
- b. All persons working with bats, or their tissues must attend an OLAC class on Working Safely with Bats before they can enter the bat housing and experimental areas.
- c. All persons entering bat areas must wear PPE according to the applicable section(s) above.
- d. All persons working with bats should be trained to handle sharps with extra precautions.
  - Needles that have entered a bat body or have in any way been exposed to bat bodily fluids, should never be recapped.
  - A sharps disposal container should always be near at hand when performing injections or other invasive procedures on bats.

9. Exposure:

- a. In the event of a bite or scratch by a bat, scratch by dirty bat equipment, or splash in the face from a bat cage or other bat-generated materials, follow the posted exposure protocol.
- b. The wound/area must be washed immediately with mild soap and water.
- c. Eyes or other mucous membranes must be flushed with water.
- d. Washing/flushing should continue for 15 minutes.
- e. Notify your supervisor of the exposure and call 3-VETS (510-643-8387) to alert veterinary staff.
- f. Making sure to bring the post-exposure packet from the Bat bite/scratch kit, seek medical attention:
  - i. During regular business hours, visit UCB's Tang Center.
  - ii. If outside business hours or on a weekend or holiday, visit Alta Bates Summit Medical Center.
    1. Following the hospital visit, call UCB's Occupational Health at 510-642-6891 to report the incident and initiate Worker's Compensation procedures.

REVISION HISTORY			
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