Introduction
This document describes the Occupational Health Surveillance Program (OHSP) for everyone who has frequent or significant contact with vertebrate animals used in research or teaching activities at ASU. This Program is authorized by federal regulations and ASU’s external accrediting agency. The major goals of the OHSP are to address potential risks associated with the use of animals in research settings. Examples include animal bites, scratches, allergens, pathogens that might be transmissible to humans, and other health-related risks.

The OHSP has been designed to:
1) protect individuals from work-related risks associated with research on animals,
2) protect the health of research animals from certain transmissible diseases,
3) be pertinent to the work individuals do and the species to which they are exposed,
4) be minimally intrusive, and
5) be cost effective

Your cooperation is essential to the success of this program.

Who Must Participate?
All faculty, staff, animal care staff, visiting scholars, and students who have frequent or significant contact with vertebrate animals or unfixed animal tissues or body fluids are required to participate in the OHSP.

What Do Participating Individuals Have To Do?
All participants must complete the Health Surveillance Questionnaire and sign the Animal Care Medical Release. Each Questionnaire is reviewed by a physician at ASU Health Services to determine the individual’s level of potential exposure and whether further steps are necessary. If areas of concern are detected, the individual will be advised to take appropriate measures to avoid potential health risks. Any individual who has concerns about the content of the questionnaire or work-related health risks associated with working with animals, unfixed tissues, or body fluids is encouraged to discuss these concerns with the physician at ASU Health Services or your personal care physician during a private interview.

The contents of the Questionnaire and subsequent communications between the medical provider and the individual are not shared with anyone, including the employer or supervisor. In unusual situations that pose a serious and imminent health-related risk to the individual, co-workers, or animals, the animal researcher will be asked to sign a release form that will allow the information to be shared with appropriate university personnel.

Who Pays for the OHSP?
The cost of the OHSP including the physician review of the Health Surveillance Questionnaire, any recommended vaccinations, or tuberculosis screening provided by ASU Health Services are covered by the Office of Knowledge Enterprise Development. Any additional costs may or may not be covered by the OKED, and such determination will be made on a case by case basis.
Components of the Program

**Training** - Animal users must be provided with training regarding the species-specific diseases and health problems or risks associated with their proposed animal interactions. The Principal Investigators (PIs), or their designees, are responsible for ensuring that appropriate individuals receive training. The Animal Care Program personnel can provide training regarding appropriate handling of animals.

**Health Questionnaire** - A confidential Health Surveillance Questionnaire is completed and, based upon evaluation of the information by a ASU Health Services physician, further medical evaluations may be necessary. Participating individuals must complete the questionnaire annually.

**Physical Examination** - As a condition of Department of Animal Care and Technologies employment, all individuals shall receive a pre-placement examination. In addition, some animal users, based on their medical history and planned use of animals, may be encouraged to receive a physical examination by the ASU Health Services physician with an emphasis towards problems associated with their planned animal interactions. Exams will be given at the discretion of the physician or at the request of the employee or student.

**Vaccinations** - All participants must have received a tetanus vaccination within the last ten years. Individuals who work with non-human primates or with non-human primate samples must have two vaccinations for measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) in their lifetime or a current positive measles titer. Written-proof of vaccinations must be provided or individuals will be required to receive immunizations. Additional vaccinations may also be recommended or required after evaluation of the questionnaire by the physician at Health Services.

**Tuberculosis (TB) Screening** - All individuals who work with or around non-human primates are required to have tuberculosis exposure testing. These individuals must demonstrate negative results from an annual tuberculin skin test (PPD) provided by ASU Health Services or an alternate health provider. Any individual that has a positive reaction to the skin test must have a secondary screening (chest X-ray or a blood test) to ascertain the presence of active disease. There is no grace period; all individuals must have had a negative skin test or X-ray within the past twelve months to be permitted access to primate use areas.

For further information:
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