



Duke University & Duke University Medical Center  
Animal Care & Use Program  
Policy



## OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

**PERFORMANCE STANDARD:** Animals care and use is performed in a safe manner with proper health assessments and effective disease prevention.

**BACKGROUND:** The NRC reference titled: Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research Animals states that ‘the goal of an occupational health and safety program is to prevent occupational injury and illness.’ The obligation of the institution is to provide a safe and healthy workplace for all individuals who participate in institutional programs. Duke University has an integrated and mutually supportive campus-wide program including a commitment to perform animal care and use activities in an occupationally reasonable and healthy manner.

### ROLES:

1. All personnel working with animals under a Duke IACUC approval will abide by this policy, or animal care and use privileges may be restricted or removed by the IACUC, Occupational and Environmental Safety Office (OESO), or Employee Health.
2. OESO will provide the system and program for issues involving occupational safety.
3. Employee Health will provide the system for issues involving personnel health and healthcare decisions.
4. Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) will approve proposed animal care and use activities, but will withhold providing an approval letter until all individuals are cleared by OESO and Employee Health.

**PROTECTIVE POSTURES REQUIRED:** Personnel PPE will be worn as prescribed by the specific care facility management. Protective practices, as defined by the appropriate SOP, will be used for all animal care or use

### OUTLINE OF POLICY:

1. OAWA will provide a copy of the proposed protocol to OESO and within 5 days of receipt.
2. OESO will review all proposed protocols for proper safety procedures, locations, and equipment. OESO will perform an initial review within 3 business days of receipt, and will advise the Principal Investigator of any issues or concerns that must be resolved prior to obtaining clearance. If the work is being performed outside of the Duke OESO umbrella, OAWA will advise the Principal Investigator that clearance from the appropriate OESO office at the ‘home’ or performing institution is necessary prior to release of the protocol.
3. When the individual is a non-Duke person involved with an off campus program, clearance from the home institution’s occupational health / employee health organization will be required for release of the animal protocol.
4. OESO will review all proposed protocols for proper safety procedures, locations, and equipment.

5. Duke OESO assessment is not required for animal work being performed at the Durham VAMC or other non-Duke facilities, but may be required by the Duke IACUC prior to release of an IACUC approval letter.
6. The IACUC will review protocols without consideration of OESO or Employee Health concerns,
7. OAWA will not provide an IACUC approval letter to the Principal Investigator until clearance of OESO and Employee Health (or similar institutional equivalent) issues are received by OAWA.
8. OAWA will provide a certification letter (if requested) to the funding agency after IACUC approval and prior to OESO or Employee Health clearance.