



TEXAS A&M

HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Attachment A

Occupational Health and Safety Program – Prevention of Zoonotic
Injury or Illness

The Texas A&M Systems Health Science Centers
College of Medicine

The Occupational Safety & Health Program is to prevent risk of Zoonotic injury or illness for personnel who work in laboratory animal facilities or have substantial contact with animals in the College of Medicine, is based upon the description of such programs in the “Guide of the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” and the “Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching.” The program is monitored by the Associate Dean under the supervision of the Dean of Medicine, and is conducted with the aid of the Occupational Medicine Consultant. Substantial contact is defined using the “Animal Contact Questionnaire” as at least one contact per month with animals or animal tissues.

The level of animal contact and the degree of risk involved are assessed from information provided by the employee to their supervisor at the time of enrollment into the program and further assessed by the Scott & White’s Department of Occupational and Health Environmental Medicine Consultant. The questionnaire is resubmitted whenever substantial change in animal contact is anticipated. The Scott & White’s Department of Occupational and Health Medicine Consultant determines the level of preventive medicine and monitoring required for each employee, however, the general provisions are as follows.

Medical and work history questionnaires are prepared by the employee with significant animal contact.

Physical examinations are performed on those persons designated by the Scott & White’s Department of Occupational and Health Environmental Medicine Consultant in conjunction with the Occupational Health & Safety Program.

All employees with substantial animal contact are afforded the opportunity for pre-exposure rabies immunization and other available vaccines, including tetanus, when contact with disease agents is anticipated.

Exposure to Zoonotic illnesses and all injuries must be promptly treated and reported to the employee’s supervisor and the Occupational Health Program. The animal must be isolated for observation as required. In no instance may an animal be disposed of, following an animal bite of an employee, until specific clearance has been given by the Occupational Health Program. When indicated and with the employee’s written consent, a blood sample for evaluating post exposure Zoonotic illness anti-body titer is drawn.

A copy of the Occupational Health Program for personnel with substantial animal exposure is on file and available to employees at the Office of the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies.