

SAFETY CONCERNS IN ANIMAL AREAS

You have entered in an area where you may come in contact with animals or their environment. Associated with animals are potential hazards such as the following:

ALLERGIES

It has been reported that one out of every three to five individuals who works with laboratory animals will develop allergic symptoms. Symptoms include itchy, watery eyes; sneezing; or an itchy, runny nose. Skin rashes and hives or more severe symptoms, such as wheezing and shortness of breath, may also occur.

ZOONOTIC DISEASE

Animal-related infectious diseases pose a risk to anyone who works with or around animals.

TRAUMATIC INJURIES

Include stepped on, kicked, bitten or pinned against something by a large farm animal.

COMMON PRACTICES THAT CAN PROTECT YOU FROM ANIMAL-RELATED HAZARDS

Contact the animal-facility/lab manager for safety instructions and enroll in the Animal Handler Health & Safety Program. Enrollment is required for faculty, staff and students who have direct contact with vertebrate animals.

If you are aware of personal health conditions such as allergies, that may affect your ability to work in animal areas, inform your supervisor.

Follow the instructions on all posted signs indicating the need for wearing protective covering.

Do not attempt to pet or touch the animals.

Practice personal hygiene and always wash your hands after leaving animal areas.

For health or safety related concerns or questions please contact

The Department of Environmental Safety, Sustainability & Risk, (301) 405-3960 or safety@umd.edu

For questions regarding animal handling or care contact

The Department of Laboratory Animal Resources, (301) 405-4921