



Safety Concerns - Animal Areas

Introduction:

The University of Connecticut Health Center is actively involved in working with animals. In performing your assigned duties, you may at times come in contact with animals or their environment. Although minimal, there are some hazards that you should be aware of when working in areas that animals are being housed and maintained.

If you have concerns regarding the welfare of animals, please contact **Alison D. Pohl** in the Animal Care Committee Office, (860) 679-4129, pohl@uchc.edu, or ooacc@uchc.edu.

Animal related hazards include the following:

- **Allergies**

A small percentage of individuals may have an allergic reaction to animals. If you are experiencing hives, a runny nose or eyes, coughing or shortness of breath (asthma) when you enter an animal area, this may suggest some type of allergic reaction.

- **Other hazards associated with animal maintenance areas**

Additional hazards for individuals working in animal housing areas include:

- Traumatic injuries, such as being stepped on, kicked, bitten or pinned against something by a large farm animal
- Animal-related infectious diseases
- Chemical hazards (disinfectants / flammables / carcinogens)
- Machinery hazards

Common Practices that can protect you from animal related hazards:

- Before entering any animal housing areas, contact the animal facility manager for safety instructions.
- If you are aware of personal health conditions such as allergies or asthma that prohibit you from working in animal maintenance areas inform your supervisor.
- Practice personal hygiene and always wash your hands after leaving animal maintenance areas.
- Be careful around animal facility equipment
- Do not enter animal rooms unaccompanied without proper training and authorization.
- Please communicate any additional concerns directly to your supervisor.

For additional information on safety in animal areas, please contact: **Dr. Ron Wallace**, Office of Research Safety, (860) 679-3781, rwallace@adp.uchc.edu.