

Vivarium Visitor Orientation

First Issued: 2/20/08, Revised: 3/18/10, 4/29/10, 9/28/11, 11/3/11, 12/8/14, 3/12/15, 9/8/15, 11/17/21 (previously Contractor/Guest version)

AVS must be notified before any visitors enter the vivarium. All visitors at the Kakaako vivarium must be signed in by their escort at the security desk and escorted into the facility. The escort must stay with the visitor at all times. The visitor may only observe procedures involving the animal unless or until they have been added as personnel on an approved IACUC protocol.

Limited Access –Only those persons authorized to enter the facility are allowed entry into animal rooms. All persons must be advised of hazards and instructed on appropriate safeguards. Visitor access is limited to only those areas that are required for their visit.

Pathogen Status and Traffic Flow Pattern – Vivarium rodents are specific pathogen free, and we want to prevent the introduction of any research animal pathogens into the vivarium. If you have pet rodents, guinea pigs, or rabbits, or if you have come in contact with any of the above listed in other non-AVS operated facilities within 12 hours prior to entry, showering, including washing hair, and changing into vivarium scrubs is required. The traffic flow pattern in the vivarium will be explained to you.

Proper attire – Protective lab coats, gowns and/or uniforms are worn to prevent contamination of personal clothing. The minimum vivarium attire is a gown or lab coat, closed toe shoes, shoe covers. These are used to protect the research animals and personnel. Best practices are to don gloves when opening cages in the animal/procedure rooms as well as in dirty cage wash. Gloves can only be donned within the procedure or holding rooms, and must be removed before contacting communal items such as doorknobs. As required by risk assessment, eye protection, face coverings and/or respiratory protection (e.g. N95) may be used. Protective outer clothing shall not be worn outside of the facility.

Hygiene: Eating, drinking, handling of contacts, and/or storing food for human consumption shall only be done in designated areas and are not permitted in the vivarium proper. Backpacks, handbags and other cloth-type materials, which cannot be decontaminated, are not permitted in the vivarium. Always wash your hands after leaving the rooms and facility. You may use the hand sinks or hand sanitizers located throughout the facility.

Current Hazards

There may be chemical, biological or other hazardous projects in the facility that you will be made aware of, a number of which utilize hazardous chemicals in animals. The animals are in sealed HEPA-filtered cages to minimize risks. All hazard work is done using special safety equipment, such as, but not limited to, Biological Safety Cabinets, and facility design, based on risk assessment.

Persons with allergies and/or asthma should be aware that animal dander exposure is likely to occur in the facility. Those personnel should consider wearing a surgical mask or request respiratory protection, as well as be made aware of the UH Respiratory Protection Program (attached).

<http://www.hawaii.edu/ehso/industrial/reference.htm>

I understand the rules for working within the UH AVS vivarium and agree to abide by them as stated.

Printed Name and Signature

Date

Escort Printed Name and Signature

Vivarium Visitor Orientation

First Issued: 2/20/08, Revised: 3/18/10, 4/29/10, 9/28/11, 11/3/11, 12/8/14, 3/12/15, 9/8/15, 11/17/21 (previously Contractor/Guest version)

APPENDIX B

VOLUNTARY USE OF RESPIRATORS

Information For Employees Using Respirators When Not Required Under The Standard

Respirators are effective method of protection against designated hazards when properly selected and worn. Respirator use is encouraged, even when exposures are below the exposure limit, to provide an additional level of comfort and protection for workers. However, if a respirator is used improperly or not kept clean, the respirator itself can become a hazard, even if the amount of hazardous substance does not exceed the limits set by HIOSH standards. If your employer provides respirators for your voluntary use, or if you provide your own respirator, you need to take certain precautions to be sure that the respirator itself does not present a hazard.

You should do the following:

1. Read and heed all instructions provided by the manufacturer on use, maintenance, cleaning and care, and warning regarding the respirators limitations.
2. Choose respirators certified for use to protect against the contaminant of concern. NIOSH, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health certifies respirators. A label and statement of certification should appear on the respirator or respirator packaging. It will tell you what the respirator is designed for and how much it will protect you.
3. Do not wear your respirator into atmospheres containing contaminants for which your respirator is not designed to protect against. For example, a respirator designed to filter dust particles will not protect you against gases, vapors, or very small solid particles of fumes or smoke.
4. Keep track of your respirator so that you do not mistakenly use someone else's respirator.