

## University of Vermont

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Replaces Hazardous Material and Biological Agents Policies

### **ANIMAL RESEARCH INVOLVING HAZARDOUS MATERIAL POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

All hazardous materials including chemical, biological, or radioactive agents to be administered to animals must be defined in the animal use protocol. The Principal Investigator (PI) of the research project is responsible for evaluating and indicating the potential human and animal health hazards of the agents being used in a research project and to obtain prospective approval from the appropriate review Committees prior to initiation.

Some hazardous materials are strictly controlled by federal, state and local regulations. Therefore, the University of Vermont has established specific committees and offices composed of professional staff and faculty with expertise in handling these hazardous materials. These committees/offices include:

- 1) Environmental Health and Safety Office, (6-5400)
- 2) Institutional Biosafety Committee, Office of Sponsored Programs (6-5040) and
- 3) Radiation Safety Office, (6-2570).

It is the IACUC's expectation that the appropriate biosafety committee or office will review the intended hazardous material use and provide approval after all safety issues have been addressed by the PI. Personnel identified as working with hazardous agents must complete appropriate training as prescribed by the relevant Committee prior to working with any hazardous agent. The IACUC will not release animal use protocol approval until all applicable approvals are in place.

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Go to the [IBC Researcher Manual](#) for definitions of some of the hazardous materials listed below.

#### **Radioactive Materials or Radiation**

Any animal research protocol involving the use of specified radioactive materials and X-ray procedures must be reviewed by the Radiation Safety Office in addition to the IACUC. It is the Principal Investigator's responsibility to submit the appropriate forms for review to the Radiation Safety Office as well as to complete the appropriate sections in the animal use protocol form.

#### **Infectious Agents (pathogenic to human or animal)**

Review of any animal research protocol involving the use of Infectious Agents must be reviewed by the Institutional Biosafety Committee in addition to the IACUC. It is the Principal Investigator's responsibility to submit the appropriate forms for review to the Institutional Biosafety Committee as well as to complete the appropriate sections in the animal use protocol form.

### **Biotoxins**

Review of any animal research protocol involving the use of Biotoxins must be reviewed by the Institutional Biosafety Committee in addition to the IACUC. It is the Principal Investigator's responsibility to submit the appropriate forms for review to the Institutional Biosafety Committee as well as to complete the appropriate sections in the animal use protocol form.

### **Known or suspect chemical carcinogens or mutagens**

Review of any animal research protocol involving the use of chemical carcinogens or mutagens must be reviewed by the Environmental Health and Safety Office in addition to the IACUC. It is the Principal Investigator's responsibility to submit the appropriate forms for review to the Environmental Health and Safety Office as well as to complete the appropriate sections in the animal use protocol form.

### **Recombinant DNA**

Review of any animal research protocol involving the use of Recombinant DNA must be reviewed by the Institutional Biosafety Committee in addition to the IACUC. It is the Principal Investigator's responsibility to submit the appropriate forms for review to the Institutional Biosafety Committee as well as to complete the appropriate sections in the animal use protocol form.

### **Tumors, Cells, Sera or Other Body Fluids**

Tumors, cells, sera or other body fluids derived from **humans** and used in live animals may potentially carry disease that could infect research and animal care personnel. If any of these materials are to be used, they need to be described as a biohazard in the Animal Care and Use Protocol and may require review by the Institutional Biosafety Committee.

Tumors, cells, sera or other body fluids derived from **animals** are potential sources of animal and/or human disease. There is a special concern with rodent viruses that could spread throughout the animal facilities (and have done so at other institutions). If you are using any of these agents, describe in the Animal Care and Use Protocol and discuss with the University Veterinarian.

### **Hazardous Waste**

Animal wastes and carcasses that may be contaminated with hazardous materials must be carefully managed to avoid human exposure or damage to the environment. Hazardous waste material must be disposed of in accordance with the guidelines established by the Committees listed above.

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### **Principal Investigator's Responsibilities**

The Principal Investigator will provide those personnel under his/her supervision with knowledge of biohazards to which they may be exposed and safety procedures to be followed. The PI must:

1. Be knowledgeable of good laboratory safety practice and adopt and model a positive safety attitude.
2. Make available to the laboratory staff copies of protocols that describe potential biohazards and the precautions to be taken. These protocols as well as biosafety

- concerns should be produced in the form of a standard operating procedure (SOP) for the work which is reviewed and approved by the appropriate Committee or safety personnel.
3. Provide laboratory staff with both formal and informal instruction and training in the practices and techniques required to ensure safety and document that training appropriately.
  4. Inform the laboratory staff of the reasons and provisions for any precautionary medical practices (e.g., with health history evaluation, risk assessment and when indicated medical examinations and vaccinations, etc.) and document informed consent by laboratory personnel.
  5. Oversee the performance of staff to ensure that required safety practices and techniques are employed.
  6. Make available to the laboratory staff, copies of the emergency plans covering accidental spills and personnel contamination resulting from biohazardous research.

**Office of Animal Care Management Responsibilities**

The Office of Animal Care Management has the same responsibilities as above for the Animal Care Management staff.