DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
SOUTH TEXAS VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
7400 Merton Minter Boulevard
San Antonio, Texas 78284

RESEARCH SERVICE
MEMORANDUM NO. 06-6

May 11, 2006

ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROGRAM

Animal Biosafety Level 2 in the Veterinary Medical Unit

1. PURPOSE: To outline standard operating procedures to facilitate the safe and efficient operation of an Animal Biosafety Level 2, using general procedures set forth by CDC/NIH.

2. PROCEDURES (ANIMAL BIOSAFETY LEVEL 2)

a. Standard Practices

(1) Self-closing doors to animal rooms are kept closed where infected animals are housed.

(2) Work surfaces (sink area, lab carts, etc.) are decontaminated after use or spills of viable materials with Clidox-S (1:5:1) and isopropyl alcohol.

(3) Eating, drinking, smoking and storing of food are not permitted in animal rooms.

(4) Personnel wash their hands after handling animals and before leaving the animal rooms.

(5) All procedures are carefully performed to minimize the creation of aerosols.

(6) An insect and rodent control program is in effect.

b. Special Practices.

(1) Dirty cages with bedding are decontaminated, preferably by autoclaving, before they are cleaned and washed.

(2) N-95 respirators, gowns, and gloves provided by VMU are worn by all personnel entering animal rooms. This protective clothing (located in U238 and R204 anteroom) is removed before leaving the animal facility.

(3) The Veterinary Medical Consultant limits access to the animal rooms to personnel who have been advised of the potential hazard and who need to enter the rooms for program or service purposes when work is in progress.

(4) The Veterinary Medical Consultant establishes policies and procedures whereby only persons who have been advised of the potential hazard and meet any specific requirements (e.g., for immunization) may enter the animal rooms.

(5) A hazard warning sign, incorporating the universal biohazard symbol, is posted on the access door to the animal rooms. The hazard warning sign identifies the infectious agent, lists the name and telephone number of the animal facility supervisor or other responsible person(s), and indicates the special requirement(s) for entering the animal rooms.

(6) Special care is taken to avoid skin contamination with infectious materials; gloves should be worn when handling infected animals and when contact with infectious materials is unavoidable.

(7) All wastes from the animal rooms are decontaminated by autoclaving before disposal. Infected animal carcasses are autoclaved and then incinerated after being transported from the animal room in leakproof, covered containers.

(8) Hypodermic needles and syringes are used only for the parenteral injection or aspiration of fluids from laboratory animals and diaphragm bottles. Only needle-locking syringes or disposable needle syringe units (i.e., the needle is integral to the syringe) are used for the injection or aspiration of infectious fluids. Needles should not be bent, sheared, replaced in the sheath or guard, or removed from the syringe following use. The needle and syringe should be promptly placed in a puncture-resistant container provided in each room and decontaminated by autoclaving, before discard or reuse.

(9) If floor drains are provided, the drain traps are always filled with water or a suitable disinfectant.

(10) When appropriate, considering the agents handled, baseline serum samples from animal care and other at-risk personnel are collected and stored. Additional serum samples may be collected periodically, depending on the agents handled or the function of the facility.

c. Containment Equipment.

Biological safety cabinets, other physical containment devices, and/or personal protective devices (e.g., respirators, face shields) are used whenever procedures with a high potential for creating aerosols are conducted. These include necropsy of infected animals, harvesting of infected tissue or fluids from animals or eggs, intranasal inoculation of animals, and manipulations of high concentrations or large volumes of infectious materials.

d. Animal Facilities.

(1) The animal facility is designed and constructed to facilitate cleaning and housekeeping.

(2) A handwashing sink is available in the room where infected animals are based.

(3) The direction of airflow in the animal facility is inward and that exhaust air is discharged to the outside without being recirculated to other rooms.

(4) Autoclaves for decontaminating infectious laboratory waste are available in V203 and R206.

3. PROCEDURES (SPECIFIC ROOM PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES)

R204.1, R204.2, R203 – Biohazard containment animal rooms

(1) Responsibilities of principal investigator and his technicians

(a) Wear gowns, gloves, and N95 respirators when working in infected rooms.

(b) Decontaminate sink, drain area, lab cart, and changing station after each use with Clidox-S J(I:5:1) and isopropyl alcohol.

(c) Provide required information on cage cards.
Principal Investigator and phone
Technician and phone
Organism - dosage and route of administration

(d) Check animals daily.

(e) Remove dead animals and terminate moribund animals and dispose of properly.

(2) Responsibilities of VMU personnel

(a) Check animals daily.

(b) Prepare and change cages, feed, bedding, and water bottles weekly for static cages and biweekly for ventilated cages using a Clidox-S glove dip between each cage.

(c) Clean floor, walls, and sink.

(d) Autoclave trash and dirty cages from Class II animals.

4. REFERENCES: HHS Publication No. (CDC) 93-8395, pages 47-52, May 1993.

5. RESCISSION: Research Service Memorandum 05-6, September 23, 2005.

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DISTRIBUTION: Investigators and Technicians Concerned