

COMPARATIVE MEDICINE  
LABORATORY ANIMAL FACILITIES

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES  
for  
PERSONNEL PROTECTION – SHEEP AND GOATS

- 1.0 Purpose:  
This procedure mandates all safety precautions to be followed when working with sheep and/or goats.
- 2.0 Scope:  
This procedure applies to all CMLAF, investigator and maintenance staff that may come into contact with sheep and/or goats.
- 3.0 Procedure:  
Strict adherence to the following guidelines will optimize the personnel protection of individuals working with sheep and goats.
- 3.1 Environmental Exposure/Barriers
- A. A biohazard sign must be posted on all the doors of the lab.
  - B. Information of the hazard and contact numbers must be included on the sign.
  - C. The entrance doors must be locked at all times.
- 3.2 The following procedures should be performed EACH AND EVERY time one enters or exits a lab where sheep and goats are being utilized.
- A. ENTRY:  
All personnel must put on a mask (N95 respirator 3M) gloves, gown (disposable or non-disposable), hair cover and shoe covers.
    - 1. These procedures must also be followed when working with sheep/goat body fluids and tissues, including milk, placenta and afterbirth fluids.
    - 2. All gowning should occur in the area designated for that purpose.
  - B. EXIT:
    - 1. Personnel should degown in the animal room by first removing booties, gowns, hair covers, masks and then gloves.
      - a. Disposable items should be placed in biomedical waste bags and incinerated.
      - b. Non-disposable gowns should be sequestered, autoclaved, and then laundered (in that order).
      - c. Hands must be washed immediately after leaving sheep area.
    - 2. Chlorinated (10%) foot baths should be employed at all exits.
      - a. Stepping into this prepared wetted surface upon exit from the lab minimizes tracking of potential infectious agents

outside of the containment area. See SOP 1.C.2 for preparation.

### 3.3 Housing/Physical Contamination

- A. When sheep or goats are used in either acute or chronic experimental protocols, every effort should be made to minimize contamination of the surrounding work area.
  - 1. Work surfaces, floors and equipment should be decontaminated after exposure to sheep/goats (or their fluids and tissues) with bleach (10%) or other approved disinfectant (PV-15 by Pharmacal).
  - 2. Paper items, drugs etc. that are used exclusively for sheep/goats that cannot be easily disinfected can be stored in a "Biohazard" labeled container/bag inside the housing area.
    - a. The container must be placed in a second Biohazard labeled bag and the outside sprayed down with bleach or disinfectant.
- B. Labs should embrace a policy of treating contaminants (spillage of feces/urine/blood/placental content, etc.) similarly to that currently employed by Radiation Protection Services. See SOP 1.C.1 for specific cleaning details.
- C. In the event of an accident, major clean-up or serious breakdown in containment, all incidents should be reported immediately and followed up with a written report, including details on circumstances/persons involved/remedial action, etc. This report should be submitted to the CMLAF facility Director immediately.

### 3.4 Environmental/Personnel Traffic

- A. It is imperative that once a laboratory is engaged in its research protocol for that day, all participants minimize their traffic in and out of this area.
  - 1. If it is necessary to leave the lab, the SOPs for gowning and degowning, etc. continue to apply each and every time.
  - 2. Trafficking of personnel outside the labs into corridors or between floors is strictly forbidden unless they have followed the SOP for degowning/decontamination.
- B. When transporting sheep and goats, CMLAF sanctioned sheep/goat transport carriers must be used. Moving of the animal in and out of the carrier should be performed with minimal extraction of fecal contents/urine residue, etc. from the carrier. Immediate cleanup is required when this occurs.

### 3.5 Surveillance Monitoring

- A. All personnel working with sheep or goats will be required to be tested for Q fever annually using serologic surveys.
  - 1. PI and staff must be Q-Fever tested before starting their project and participate in the OHMP (Occupational Health Monitoring Program).
  - 2. Individuals with certain medical conditions (i.e. pregnancy, artificial heart valves) may be excluded from sheep/goat contact, on advice from medical staff.

3.6 For further information contact the offices of EHS at 829-3301, or the Department of Comparative Medicine, Laboratory Animal Facilities, at 829-2919.