

COMPARATIVE MEDICINE  
LABORATORY ANIMAL FACILITIES  
  
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES  
for  
THE USE OF EAR PROTECTION

- 1.0 Purpose  
This procedure states the need for ear protection when entering or working in the dog rooms.
  
- 2.0 Scope  
This procedure applies to all animal care and authorized visitors in applicable areas.
  
- 3.0 Procedure
  - 3.1 It is recommended that ear protection be used when entering or working in rooms housing dogs.
    - A. The use of ear muffs or ear plugs is required for employees assigned to work in the dog rooms.
    - B. The use of disposable ear plugs is recommended for authorized visitors entering the dog rooms or other noisy areas in the animal care facilities.
    - C. Ear plugs can be obtained from the facility manager or the floor and area supervisors, or in room 315 in labeled drawer.
    - D. Ear muffs are located in room 315 inside labeled drawer.
  - 3.2 The exposure to noise is dependent upon the time spent in the rooms and the number and activity of the dogs.
    - A. Most commonly high sound levels occur only during the first few seconds upon entering a room.
    - B. Other factors to consider are that different people have different levels of sensitivity to noise, and that the relatively high-impact noise of dogs barking, even if not continuous, can be irritating over a period of time.