Personnel Safety with Non-Human Primates/Exotics

Purpose:
Primates and other "non-domesticated" species (e.g. raccoons) must be handled with extreme caution. These species do not submit easily to handling and manipulation and can exhibit aggressive behavior. Individuals working with these species are required to have evidence of experience with the animals and an additional "in-house" training program which covers handling, possible zoonotic diseases, and precautions necessary when working with these species. These requirements are in effect to prevent both physical injury and zoonotic disease transmission.

Procedure:

1) Comparative Medicine staff members assigned to handle the primates and any other non-domesticated species will be trained in appropriate methods to avoid bites and disease exposure. These staff members will be briefed on zoonotic diseases and trained to detect signs of illness in the animals. All employees must have an annual T.B. screening and a respirator fit test. Vaccinations for hepatitis B, rabies, and other agents are available to all investigators and staff members as required.

2) Special clothing requirements (eye protection, N95 respirator, cap, gloves [double glove], sleevelets, shoe covers, Tyvec suit) are posted on the entry doors to the exotic species housing area. Special clothing will be provided and must be worn. Adherence to posted regulations is required, and principal investigators are responsible for any staff members assigned to these areas.

3) Exotic species may carry disease which can be transmitted to humans (e.g. Cercopithecine Herpesvirus 1 [B virus]). Principal investigators and their staff members who work with these animals are cautioned to handle them and any specimen collected from them utilizing Universal Precautions. Movement of these animals out of the facility and through any patient area is strictly prohibited, except when the animals are received or transferred to another facility. In emergency situations animal movement will be coordinated by the CMF Director or designee.

4) All bite or scratch wounds resulting from exotic species, or wounds from cages that might be contaminated with secretions from such species should be reported immediately to the Operations Manager.

5) Bite and wound care kits are available in exotic animal areas. Instructions on wound care are included in the kit.

6) All injuries from the primates should be referred to Employee/Student Health Service or the emergency room when ESH is closed. Prophylactic treatment may be recommended by a provider in the absence of physical signs or symptoms suggestive of B virus infection. The provider will work with the veterinarian to assess the individual animal.
**Important Phone Numbers**

### National B Virus Resource Center
1. Dr. Julia K. Hilliard, Ph.D., Laboratory Director  
   - Ph: 404-413-6550  
   - Fax: 404-413-6556  
   - Emergency cell: 404-358-8168  
   - Email: jhillard@gus.edu (or) bvirus@gsu.edu

2. Martin J. Wildes, MT (AAB), RBP, Laboratory Manager  
   - Ph: 404-413-6566  
   - Fax: 404-413-6556  
   - Emergency cell: 404-556-9451  
   - Email: mwildes@gsu.edu

3. **Primary Clinical Consultants**  
   Dr. Norman Bernstein, M.D.  
   Ph: 540-374-3277  
   [norman.berstein@medicorp.org](mailto:norman.berstein@medicorp.org) (telephone preferred)

   Dr. David Davenport, M.D  
   Ph: 269-337-4300  
   [ddave@chartermi.net](mailto:ddave@chartermi.net)

   J. Scott Schmid, Ph.D.  
   Ph: 404-639-0066

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**Comments:**  
Technical assistance is always available and investigators are urged to seek assistance when handling these species. Investigators must have any employees assigned to research protocols involving primates screened annually for T.B. and given a respirator fit test.

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**OFFICE USE ONLY:**

**APPROVALS**

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Rhesus Bite, Scratch, Needlestick Exposures:

< Immediately scrub the wound with povidone-iodine solution for at least 15 minutes and rinse periodically.

< Gently massage deep wounds to increase contact with cleansing solution.

< In the case of high-risk deep lacerations or needlesticks involving contaminated syringes, swab the wound with freshly prepared *Dakin solution for 5 minutes.

< In the case that Dakin solution is used, continue to scrub the wound with detergent solution, periodically rinsing under warm running water for another 10-15 minutes.

< Dry the wound with sterile gauze pads.

< Cover the wound with a Telfa pad and wrap it with gauze.

< Report the incident to the CMF operations manager or veterinarian.

< During business hours report to Employee/Student Health Services (ESH) immediately. Blood samples drawn at ESH should be returned to CMF for shipping*. After hours, on holidays or weekends, report to the emergency room. Blood samples drawn in the emergency room should be returned to CMF for shipping*.

* Pull CDC recommendations for sample handling filed under Cercopithecine Herpesvirus 1 (B Virus) in the CMF office

Eye Splash with Urine, Feces, Blood or Secretions:

< Immediately irrigate eye(s), mouth, nose, or other mucosal surface in eye wash station for at least 15 minutes.

< Report the incident to the CMF operations manager or veterinarian.

< Physically report immediately to EHS during business hours. After hours, on holidays or weekends, physically report to the emergency room.

Employee/Student Health Services – 708 216-2312

Emergency Room – 68705

*Dakin solution:

25cc – Standard Laundry bleach (5% hypochlorite)
1 liter-stereile water for irrigation
pinch – Sodium Bicarbonate USP

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