

Assessing Your Risks of Animal Allergy.

Evaluate your risk of laboratory animal allergy by completing a *Health & Risk Assessment for Employee Safety in the Care and Use of Animals* form.

Personnel with suspected or demonstrated allergies should notify their healthcare provider and alert their supervisor.

Personnel with known **allergies or asthma** resulting from sensitivity to animal allergens must consult their healthcare provider, alert their supervisor, and may need medical clearance to enroll in the Respiratory Protection Program to wear a respirator.

Personnel who have had an **anaphylactic reaction** to animal proteins are not permitted to work with animals.



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References:

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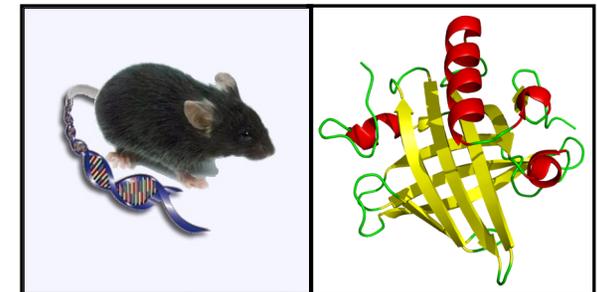
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Animal Users Health and Safety Program

Animal Allergens

$\alpha\mu$ -globulins
Major Urinary Proteins of Rodents
Are Potent Human Allergens



Laboratory Animal Allergies:
Recognition & Reporting,
Preventative Control Measures.



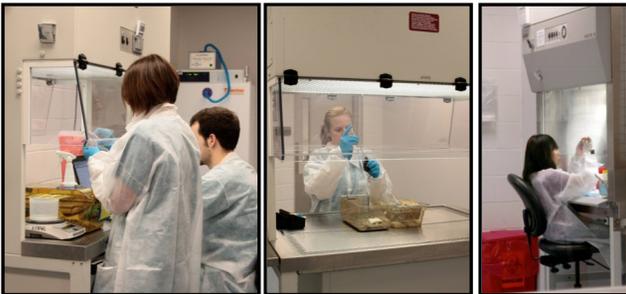
DIVISION OF COMPARATIVE MEDICINE

Why is Allergy Prevention Important?

Allergies are a common health concern in research and teaching animal facilities.

The **Occupational Health and Safety Program** informs personnel regarding potential allergens, promotes the early recognition and reporting of allergy symptoms, and safe work practices to minimize exposures to allergens.

Potential allergens include components of urine, saliva, dander, and/or hair of some animal species, pollen that may be present in some bedding, and the latex of disposable gloves.



All furred animals produce human allergens.

α 2 μ -globulins, present in the urine of rodents and the saliva and dander of cats, are potent human allergens.

Allergenic particles can remain airborne for extended periods and penetrate lower airways.

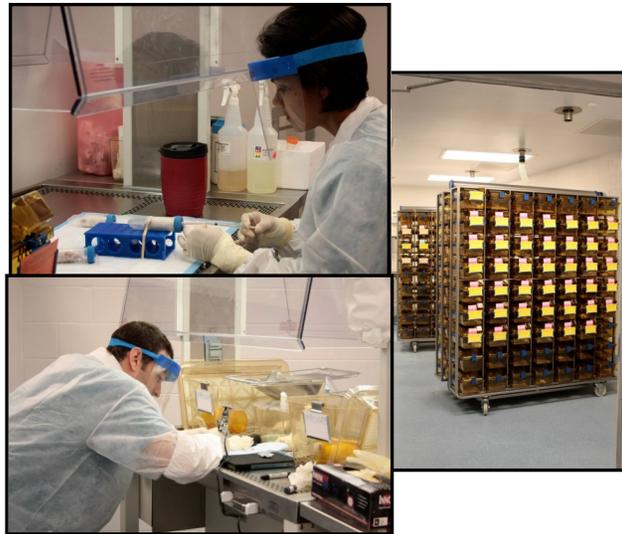
At risk workers may develop antibodies to these rodent **major urinary proteins** and allergic symptoms may develop in as many as 10-30% of exposed personnel.

What are Common Allergy Symptoms?

Respiratory Symptoms may include sneezing, runny nose, irritated/itchy eyes, coughing, wheezing, or shortness of breath.

Skin Conditions may develop as a rash (*red, bumpy, scaly, or irritated skin*) or hives.

Anaphylaxis is a serious manifestation that may develop and includes difficulty swallowing, hoarseness, shortness of breath, dizziness, fainting, nausea, and/or generalized itching.



How Are Risks Reduced?

Prevention of animal allergies depends on the **control of allergens** in the work environment.

This includes measures to eliminate or control allergen exposure, including engineering and administrative controls and personal protective equipment.

How is Allergen Exposure Reduced?

Engineering and administrative controls include housing rodents in individually ventilated caging, opening microisolators under ventilated changing stations or bio-containment hoods, the use of ventilated dumping stations, and ensuring that animal housing and procedural areas are appropriately pressurized and supplied with 100% fresh air.

Personal protective equipment includes the use of disposable laboratory coats, masks and disposable gloves.

Animals procedures should be conducted within **well ventilated areas** of the animal facility whenever possible.

Wash your hands after contact with animals and before leaving the animal facility.

Do not eat, drink, smoke, handle contact lenses, or apply cosmetics in lab animal work areas.

Follow IACUC guidelines whenever transporting animals.



Who benefits from Allergy Prevention?

Research faculty & staff, animal care staff, veterinarians, IACUC members, maintenance, security & custodial staff, outside contractors, volunteers, visitors, and students.