



Policy on Visitors to Research/Teaching Animal Housing Facilities

Visitors:

Visitors are defined to include UGA personnel who have not met the qualifications for admittance to the animal facilities or guests from outside of our university community, including auditors, media, volunteers and students engaged in non-catalog educational activities.

Standards:

Prior approval must be obtained from the management of the housing facility to be visited. Visitors can be quite disruptive to the animals and to the work activities of the animal care and research personnel.

At all times, visitors must be escorted and under the direct supervision of the host/sponsor, the host/sponsor's responsible, qualified designee, (e.g., faculty member) or animal care personnel.

Visitors are expected to adhere to all UGA requirements, rules and policies related to animal research and teaching. Visitors are not permitted to have hands-on contact with live animals, and may only observe. Additionally, visitors to research facilities are encouraged to keep entry into animal rooms to a minimum, and only observe from the hallway when possible. Hands-on contact with animals is only permitted for persons credentialed and approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, such as by being added to the appropriate IACUC protocol.

Visitors may not have access to non-human primates, biocontainment areas, or projects involving hazards without special training, authorization of the appropriate university oversight offices, and written permission from the facility's management.

Any visit of minors must be in accordance with UGA's Policy for Programs and Activities Serving Minors, and other applicable UGA policies that cover minors.

Health and Safety:

There must be a process for verifying that all visitors receive orientation regarding safety and appropriate personal hygiene, including information about zoonoses and animal allergies. This verification may be through the facility management's program, or the visitors may enroll in UGA's Non-Contact Occupational Health and Safety Program by completing the online "UGA Information Sheet for Non-Contact Animal Exposure" accessed via the UGA Office of Research Integrity and Safety website (Research Occupational Health and Safety Program/Forms and Tools).

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Visitors must adhere to all established safety rules and practices relating to the facility they are entering, including correct traffic patterns, appropriate clothing (e.g., no open toe shoes) and the proper use of PPE.

Media:

Media visits to facilities housing research or teaching animals must have prior written approval from the Office of Research Communications, as well as approval from the facility's management, and any other UGA units that Office of Research Communications and/or the facility's management deem necessary.

Effective: 10/18/2012

Last Revised: 9/21/2022