

Working with Dogs

Animal Use Medical Screening (AUMS):

All personnel working with animals, their tissues, or working in areas where animals are housed must submit an Animal Use Medical Screening (AUMS) form every 3 years to screen for exposure to possible health hazards in the work environment. Complete the form online at:

<https://www.ehs.washington.edu/research-lab/animal-use-medical-screening-aums>

Potential zoonotic diseases from dogs:

See *Appendix A: Zoonotic Disease Potentials from Dogs* for a list of possible zoonotic diseases.

Preventative measures:

- Tetanus booster should be obtained every 10 years.
- The need for rabies immunization for persons working with quarantined animals needs to be evaluated by the Occupational Health Nurse. Contact UW [Employee Health Center](#) at 206-685-1026.
- Only trained personnel should handle the dogs.
- Wear appropriate clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE). Wear protective gloves when handling the animals. Wash hands thoroughly upon completion of the tasks with the animal and upon removal of the glove/PPE. Use antiseptic hand sanitizer between glove use if needed, until you can get to handwashing facilities.

Injuries:

- See the [EH&S Exposure Response Poster](#).
- Immediately wash area thoroughly with soap and water for at least 15 minutes.
- Control any bleeding and cover with protective dressing (bandage, etc.)
- For any injuries, needlestick/sharps injury or for signs/symptoms of wound infection such as redness, swelling or pain, contact the Employee Health Center at 206-685-1026. After hours or if the clinic is unavailable, go to the [UWMC Emergency Department](#).
- Report injuries on the UW Online Accident Reporting System (OARS) at: <http://www.ehs.washington.edu/workplace/accident-and-injury-reporting>

Illness:

- If you develop signs or symptoms that you think may be related to your work with animals and/or research work, contact the Employee Health Center.
- If you see your own provider, inform him/her that you work with these animals and any other pertinent information regarding your research work. Inform Employee Health after seeing your healthcare provider.
- Report work-related illness on the UW Online Accident Reporting System (OARS) at: <http://www.ehs.washington.edu/workplace/accident-and-injury-reporting>

Allergies:

If you suspect you may be experiencing allergy symptoms, such as runny nose and sneezing (allergic rhinitis), irritation and tearing of eyes (allergic conjunctivitis), asthma, or skin rash (atopic dermatitis), contact the Employee Health Center. Those who already have asthma and/or other allergies are at an increased risk.

- Exposure to domestic dogs outside the work environment can lead to sensitization. Sources of exposure to dog allergens appear to be saliva, hair and skin. Dog albumin has also been shown to be an important allergen.
- Precautions and methods of control to prevent exposure to animal allergenic substances can be found in the NIOSH alert online, [Preventing Asthma in Animal Handlers](#).

References:

- CDC The National Institute for Occupational Health, Preventing Asthma in Animal Handlers: <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/97-116/>
- UW Research and Occupational Health webpage: <https://www.ehs.washington.edu/research-lab/research-occupational-health>
- University of California Davis Zoonosis Information by Species webpage: <http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/ps/occh/acuohp/pem/zis>
- Washington State University Zoonotic Diseases webpage: <https://iacuc.wsu.edu/zoonotic-diseases/>
- U.S. Air Force Zoonotic Diseases webpage: <http://www.phsource.us/PH/ZD/index.htm>

Contacts:

- [UW Employee Health Center](#): 206-685-1026
- Harborview Employee Health Services: 206-744-3081
- For questions on AUMS: 206-221-7770
- For questions on UW Online Accident Reporting: 206-543-7388

Appendix A: Zoonotic Disease Potentials from Dogs

**Appendix A
Zoonotic Disease Potentials from Dogs**

| Disease/Infective Agent | Reservoir/ source of infection | Transmission | Disease in People |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p>Bacteria</p> <p>There are several bacterial pathogens, including <i>Salmonella</i> spp., and <i>Campylobacter</i> spp., that are frequently associated with diarrhea in dogs and pigs and may also cause disease in people.</p> | <p>Symptomatic or asymptomatic animals</p> | <p>Fecal/oral</p> | <p>Diarrhea, dysentery (GI infection). Most bacterial pathogens are responsive to symptomatic and /or antimicrobial therapy.</p> |
| <p>Brucellosis, <i>Brucella canis</i></p> | <p>Infected dogs</p> | <p>The mode of transmission of <i>B. canis</i> to people is not clear but it is probably oral or trans-cutaneous contact with organism-infected blood or other tissues.</p> | <p>Flu-like symptoms that may recur.</p> |
| <p><i>Capnocytophaga canimorsus</i></p> | <p>Infected dogs</p> | <p>Bites of an infected dog</p> | <p>Can cause serious systemic illness.</p> |
| <p>Cryptosporidia</p> | <p>A protozoan infection found in many mammals, including dogs .</p> | <p>Fecal/oral</p> | <p>Self-limiting diarrhea except in immune compromised people where it can be quite severe. No treatment.</p> |
| <p>Enteric Helminths</p> | <p>Tapeworms, roundworms, hookworms</p> | | |
| <p>Giardia</p> <p>An infection of the small intestine caused by a microscopic organism (protozoa).</p> | <p>Dogs and other mammals</p> | <p>Fecal/oral</p> | <p>Diarrhea, dysentery. Most bacterial pathogens respond to symptomatic and/or antimicrobial therapy.</p> |
| <p>Leptospirosis, <i>Leptospira</i> spp.</p> | <p>The bacteria is found in many animals such as rats, mice, voles, hedgehogs, gerbils, squirrels, rabbits, hamsters, reptiles, dogs, sheep, goats, horses, and in standing water. Most commonly associated with livestock and dogs.</p> | <p>Leptospire are shed in the urine of infected animals. Direct contact with urine or tissues via skin abrasions or contact with mucous membranes has been reported. Transmission can also occur through inhalation of infectious droplet aerosols and by ingestion.</p> | <p>Flu-like symptoms, mild to severe. Death has been reported.</p> |

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|--|--|---|---|
| | Dogs are typically vaccinated against many different serovars of leptospirosis. | | |
| <p>Rabies</p> <p>Rabies virus (<i>rhabdovirus</i>) can infect almost any mammal. It is rare in the research environment because dogs are purchased from high quality sources with excellent vaccination and disease control programs.</p> | An infective animal. Dogs shed virus in their saliva 1-14 days before developing clinical signs. | Contact with saliva, mucous membranes, or blood on an open wound. | Never reported in a research facility. Contracted through wild or unvaccinated animals. Rabies in unvaccinated people is almost invariably fatal. |
| <p><i>Pasteurella multocida</i></p> | Infected dogs | Bites and scratches from an infected dog | |
| <p>Ringworm</p> <p>Dermatophyte infection (most commonly <i>Microsporum</i> spp. and <i>Trichophyton</i> spp.) is commonly known as ringworm because of the characteristic circular lesion often associated with it. Dermatophytes are classified as fungi.</p> | Many species of lab animals, may be unapparent. | Direct contact with infected animal | Ringworm is usually self-limiting, often circular with reddened rough skin. Responsive to prescription topical therapy. |