

Animal Use Area

Exposure to animals or animal products can cause asthma and allergies

Animals or animal products such as dander, hair, scales, fur, saliva, and body wastes contain powerful allergens that can cause both respiratory and skin disorders

Animal handlers should take steps to protect themselves from exposure to animals and animal products:

- Perform animal manipulations within cage changing stations or biosafety cabinets when possible.
- Avoid wearing street clothes while working with animals and leave work clothes at the workplace.
- Reduce skin contact with animal products by using the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). If you have an animal allergy, you may wish to use respiratory protection. The Biosafety Occupational Health Program (BOHP) can assist with the respiratory protection process.
- Keep cages and animal areas clean.

Individuals that do not directly handle animals, but have a need to enter an area where animals may be housed, should take steps to protect themselves from exposure to animal and animal products by following the guidelines below:

- Do not handle or touch animals.
- Follow all instructions posted at the entry door regarding the use of PPE.
- Contact the Principal Investigator and/or Lab/Facility Manager for guidance or concerns.

TAMU Biosafety Occupational Health Program:

- Individuals that work with animals must enroll in occupational health.
- Through the TAMU BOHP, eligible participants have access to educational resources, access to occupational health services (including respiratory protection for animal allergens and asthma), and access to an occupational health provider.
- BOHP staff can be reached via email or phone.

Website: <https://bohp.tamu.edu>

Email: bohp@tamu.edu

Phone: 979-845-6649

