



Johns Hopkins University

Animal Care and Use Committee

Animal Biosafety Level 2 (ABSL-2)

PURPOSE: The purpose of this guideline is to instruct investigators and their lab members in the proper procedures for working with animals designated as ABSL-2.

INTRODUCTION:

What is ABSL-2?

Animal Biosafety Level 2 (ABSL-2) is assigned for work involving laboratory animals that have been infected with agents associated with human disease and pose moderate hazards to personnel and the environment. Some examples of agents used in animals that would classify them as ABSL-2 are:

- Adenovirus
- Adeno-associated virus
- Lentiviral vectors
- Herpes virus I and II
- Trypanosma brucei
- Streptococcus pneumonia
- Human cells

PROCEDURES:

What procedures are necessary when working with animals classified as ABSL-2?

- 1) Prior to beginning a study, an animal protocol must be reviewed and approved by the ACUC and the Institutional Biosafety Committee. The biohazardous material must be registered with the Johns Hopkins Institutions Biosafety Office. The registration forms can be obtained at: <http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/hse/forms/forms.html> (Human Tissue, Pathogen/Infectious Agent, Biological Toxin Registration)
- 2) Upon protocol approval and registration, the ACUC office will mail you an approval letter together with a copy of the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for working with ABSL-2.
- 3) Before beginning the study, proper housing must be identified and approved.
ALL ANIMALS EXPOSED TO A BIOHAZARDOUS AGENT **MUST** BE IDENTIFIED WITH A BIOHAZARD CARD. Request cards in the central animal facility locations.
- 4) The cards should be placed on the front of the cage at the time of exposure and include the following information:
 - Agent used
 - Investigator name
 - Contact number
 - ACUC protocol number
 - IBC registration number

- Planned date of euthanasia or date after which the animal no longer will be classified as ABSL-2, as specified in the IBC approval letter.
- 5) Proper personal protective equipment (PPE) must be worn when working with animals designated as ABSL-2. This includes disposable lab coat, disposable gloves, hair cover and face mask. An additional pair of shoe covers also may be required in rooms dedicated to ABSL-2 animals.
 - 6) If there is a date after which the animals will no longer be classified as ABSL2, the biohazard card should be removed on that date.

Questions?

For questions regarding the designation of your animals as ABSL-2 please contact the Biosafety Office at 410-955-5918.

For questions concerning the proper procedures for working in ABSL-2 animal rooms contact your facility supervisor.