
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

TITLE: Safety Issues and Animal Handling Procedures for Non Human Primates, Non Human Primate Module (NHPM) West Valley Building, University of Western Ontario

SOP NO.:

REVISION: WV 611- 01

EFF. DATE: DRAFT

SUPERSEDES:

APPROVALS

Prepared by (print name): _____ Dept.: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Reviewed by (print name): _____ Dept.: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Approved by (print name): _____ Dept.: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To outline the safety issues and animal handling practices for Non Human Primates housed in the Non Human Primate Module, West Valley Building, University of Western Ontario.

2.0 SCOPE

2.1 This SOP applies to all approved personnel who work and care for Primates in the Non Human Primate Module in the West Valley Building, UWO.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 ACVS and RESEARCH STAFF

3.1.1 All personnel involved with primates are responsible for understanding and following the contents of this safety document. Failure to do so will result in retraction of privileges for work within this unit, based on the criminal liabilities held by management through Bill C-145 legislation.

4.0 PROCEDURE

4.1 ACVS and RESEARCH STAFF

4.1.1 **Safety Issues**

4.1.1.1 Nonhuman primates (NHP's) present hazards related to naturally occurring zoonotic organisms which may be transmitted to people. People also transmit zoonotic agents to NHP's. NHP's also present other unique hazards due to their intelligence, manual dexterity, strength and speed. Working with NHP's always

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requires vigilance and awareness of the risks involved in order to protect your personal health safety

- 4.1.1.2 Direct contact with NHP's requires in depth training on risks and standard operating procedures, participation in a surveillance health program as well as documented proof of training and security clearance monitored by the facility manager. Please refer to SOP WV169 " *Non Human Primate Approval Policy, West Valley Building, UWO.*
- 4.1.1.3 All approved personnel must be enrolled, approved and monitored in the animal handlers medical surveillance program through workplace health, UWO
- 4.1.1.4 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must always be worn by individuals within the NHPM as outlined in SOP WV600 *Entry,Egress and Protective Clothing Requirements for work within the Non Human Primate Module (NHPM) West Valley Building, UWO*
- 4.1.1.5 **Non human primates may transmit zoonotic diseases without showing clinical signs themselves.** Testing does not ensure that an animal will not become infectious. Literature suggests that other diseases or viruses beyond those mentioned in this document may be transmit from NHP's to humans. **It is therefore the policy to treat all NHP's as though they were infectious.** Refer to the protective clothing requirements SOP WV600 *Entry,Egress and Protective Clothing Requirements for work within the Non Human Primate Module (NHPM) West Valley Building, UWO*

4.2 Disease Which may be Transmitted from NHP's to Humans

- 4.2.1 **Cercopithacine Herpes Virus (CHV1 or commonly known as B virus)** is an virus known to be carried by macaque primates (cynomologous and rhesus are macaque primates). It does not cause severe disease in the animal, but can be fatal if transmitted to humans by bite, scratch, puncture wounds contaminated by saliva **and not properly treated** . Transmission by splashes (urine, blood, saliva) into the mouth or eyes, or abrasions by contaminated equipment or cages is also possible.
 - 4.2.1.1 Any scratch, cut or other injury that occurs anywhere in the primate or rhesus facilities must be immediately reported to either the manager or an ACVS veterinarian. First aid treatment will be overseen by an ACVS veterinarian or designated staff member and will adhere to Sop WV601 *Procedures for Bites, Scratches and Mucous membrane Exposure by Cynomologous, Rhesus or other Macaque Primates*

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- 4.2.2 **Tuberculosis** may be transmitted from NHP's to humans, and visa versa. All primates are tested frequently to ensure they do not test positive. Transmission of tuberculosis occurs from contact with saliva or from inhalation of tuberculosis from an infected source.
- 4.2.3 **Gastro Intestinal Pathogens** Many parasites and bacteria's are transmissible from NHPs to Humans. The route of infection is fecal – oral, and strict adherence to SOP WV600 *Entry,Egress and Protective Clothing Requirements for work within the Non Human Primate Module (NHPM) West Valley Building, UWO* assumes one would not consider placing gloved fingers or objects within ones mouth while working within the NHPM.
- 4.2.4 **Bite Wounds** Non Human Primates are strong, quick and intelligent. Regardless of how important interaction is between primate and human through voice and action, immediate touch contact between primate and human is only allowed with anesthetized primates.
- 4.2.5 **Unknown Pathogens** Literature states that other diseases/viruses may be transmitted from NHPs to humans but are as yet unknown. For this reason it must be respected that they always hold this ability and that medical sciences may not yet be fully aware of all the zoonotic conditions from primate to human..
- 4.3 **Disease Which may be Transmitted from Humans to NHP's**
- 4.3.1 Anyone who is asked or required to enter the Primate unit who has symptoms of or has been diagnosed with any of the following diseases may not enter the primate unit. In the case of Measles and Tuberculosis, recent contact with someone who has been diagnosed with these two conditions requires that you do not enter the unit until the particulars have been discussed with and you are cleared for entry by the ACVS veterinarian.
- 4.3.1.1 **Cold Sores** can cause a fatal disease in some Non Human Primates.
- 4.3.1.2 **Gastro Enteritis** may be transmitted to primates
- 4.3.1.3 **The Common Cold** NHP's may become severely ill if they contract the "cold" virus from humans
- 4.3.1.4 **Measles** causes very severe and sometimes fatal disease in certain types of Non Human Primates.
- 4.3.1.5 **Tuberculosis** refer to 4.2.2.
- 4.3.1.6 **Eye Sties** This is to cleared by the workplace health physician , or personal goggles to be worn (and cleaned daily) in place of safety glasses within the NHPM.
- 4.4 **Primate Animal Handling Procedures**
- 4.4.1 Direct access to occupied primate holding cages and exercise pens is limited to approved personnel as per 4.1.1.2 to 4.1.1.4
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- 4.4.2 The director , ACVS must authorize entry by visitors as per SOP WV 475 *Visitor Approval Policy, Non Human Primate Module, West Valley Building, UWO*
- 4.4.3 The facility manager or designate must authorize entry by trades personnel as per SOP WV 605 *Entry, Egress and Protective Clothing Procedures, Physical Plant and other Tradespeople, Non Human Primate Module, West Valley Building, UWO*
- 4.4.4 No one with conditions listed under 4.3.1 is allowed entry in the NHPM
- 4.4.5 **Direct** handling of conscious primates is not approved. Leather gauntlets or Kevlar gloves are used if there is a need to directly handle a primate that is not fully anaesthetised.
- 4.4.6 Transfer of awake NHP's from cage to cage or cage to exercise pen requires specific training. These procedures are limited to full time ACVS or research personnel approved by the facility manger with documented training and competency. . Please refer to SOP WV 472 *Non Human Primate Cage to cage transfers, NHPM, West Valley Building, UWOs* and SOP WV 603 *Transfer of Non Human Primates (NHP's) to an from Exercise Pens, NHPM, West Valley Building, UWO*

5.0 HEALTH & SAFETY

5.1 Refer to section 4.0

6.0 REVISION HISTORY

Revision	Reason(s) for Revision	Initiated by
	Initial SOP	Wilma Lagerwerf

7.0 REFERENCES / ASSOCIATED MATERIALS

7.1

8.0 ATTACHMENTS

8.1
