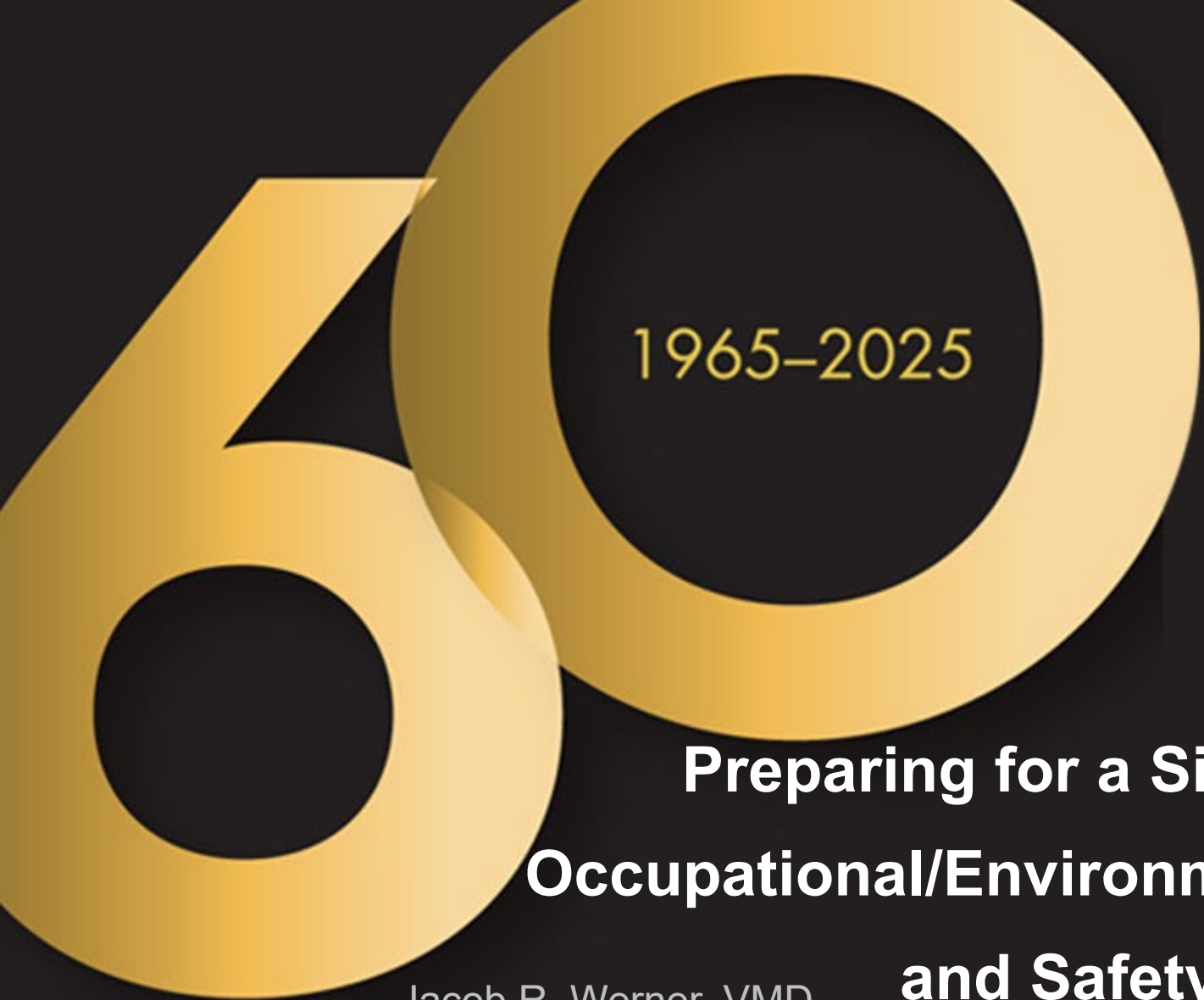




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**Preparing for a Site Visit-
Occupational/Environmental Health
and Safety**

Jacob R. Werner, VMD
Director--USA

Celebrating sixty years!



Outline

AAALAC Overview

Value of AAALAC Accreditation

Occupational Health Programs



Because we care

Consideration. Communication. Compassion.

Thank you for all you do every day to create a "Culture of Care"—an environment that supports animal and human well-being in science.

Participation in AAALAC International accreditation champions a Culture of Care—it encourages programs to continuously improve and evolve, fostering excellence in animal welfare and research. Learn more at aaalac.org

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Assessment. Accreditation. Education.



Mission:

- AAALAC International improves the welfare of animals in science and education through the accreditation of organizations meeting high standards of humane and responsible animal care and use

Vision

- A world where excellence in animal welfare and science converge.



The Accreditation Program

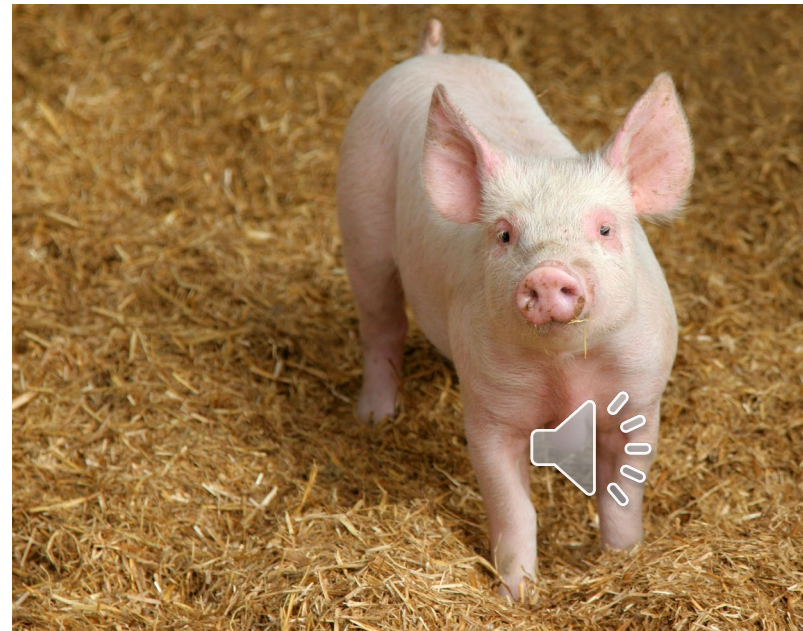
- ✓ completely confidential
- ✓ performance-based
- ✓ a peer-review process



Who does AAALAC Accredit?

Programs using any animal
species in science and
education

Includes traditional
laboratory animals,
farm animals, wildlife,
and aquatic animals



Value of Accreditation

“Attainment of accreditation demonstrates that an institution's animal care and use program maintains a standard of excellence beyond the minimums required by law.

Accreditation also demonstrates an institution's accountability and its efforts to promote sound ethical practices.”



Accreditation Demonstrates...

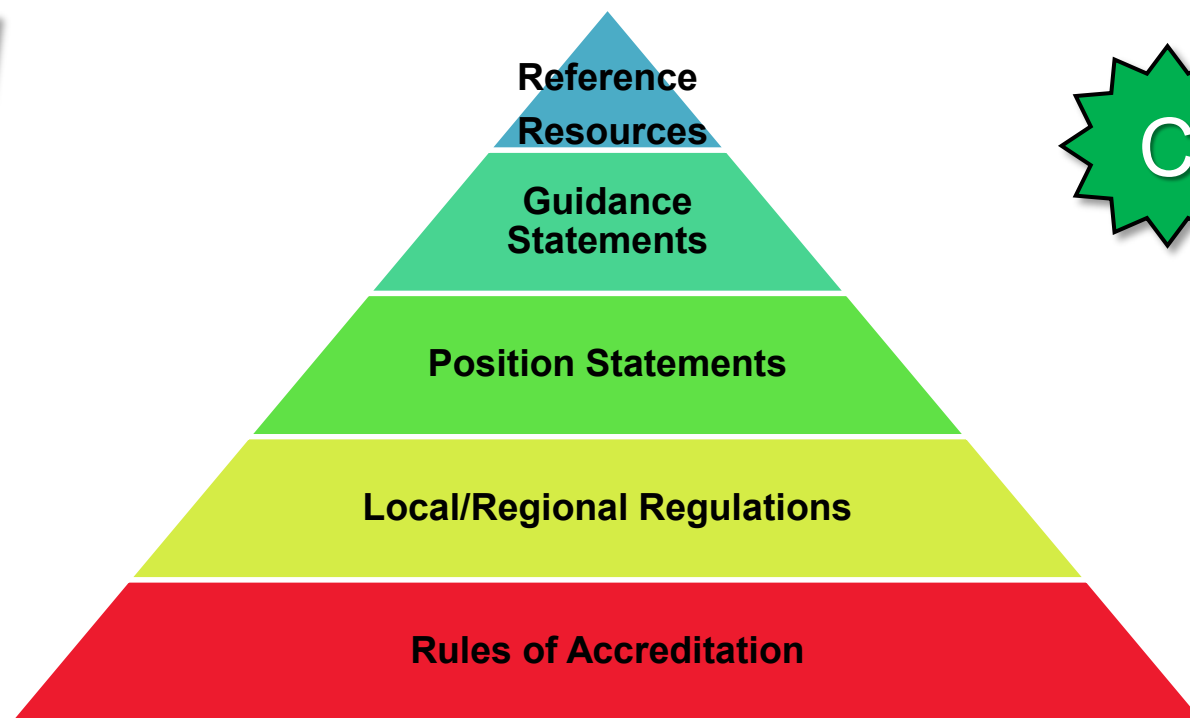
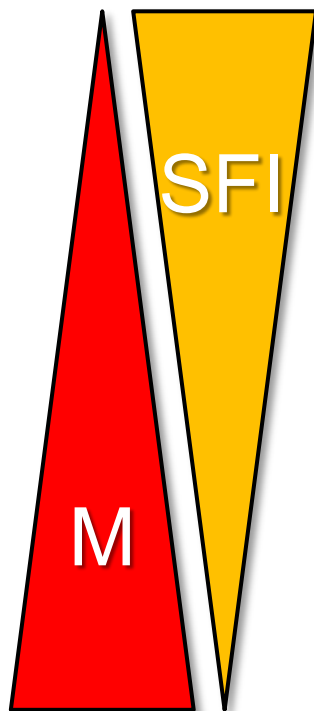
Commitment to animal care and welfare

Quality

Scientific validity

Accountability





AAALAC's Standards



Position and Guidance Statements

Position Statements

Supplemental requirements and recommendations on selected topics

Clarify AAALAC expectations and support consistent interpretation

Used in accreditation to inform findings and, in some cases, commendations

Primary Purpose / Typical Outcome: Promote consistent application of expectations; may contribute to Mandatory Findings or recognition of exemplary practices

Guidance Statements

Clarification where questions commonly arise

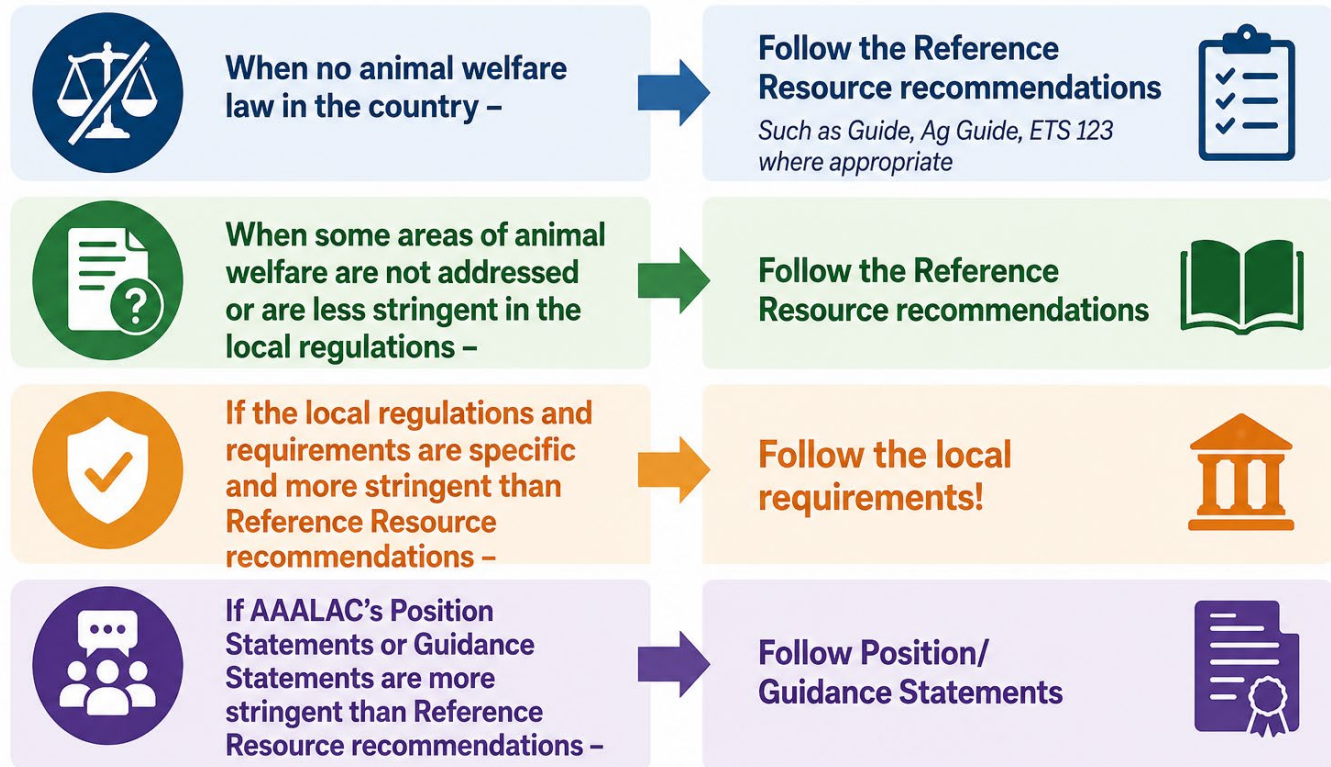
Clarify expectations when standards are not explicit

Used in accreditation to inform findings and more commonly support Suggestions for Improvement

Primary Purpose / Typical Outcome: Provide direction and clarification; typically support program enhancement and continuous improvement

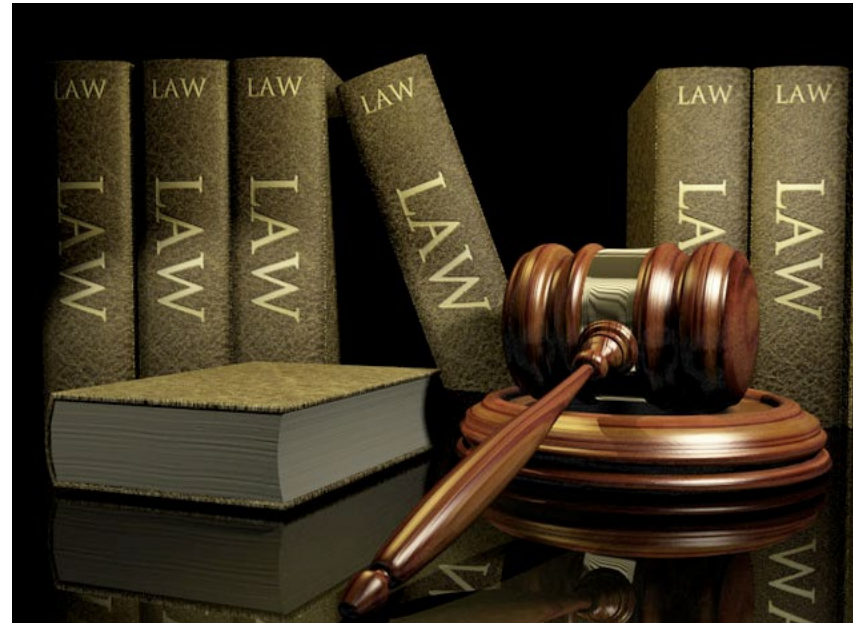


How to Determine Which Standards to Follow



Engineering Standards

- Defined, objective, measurable
- Often included in legislation as requirements
- Example: minimum cage dimensions; environmental conditions, composition IACUC/OB...



What Are Performance-Based Standards?

- ❖ Define outcomes, not rigid methods
- ❖ Focus on achieving thriving animals and strong programs
- ❖ Allows institutional flexibility



Accreditation Process



Self Evaluation

Development of Program
Description



Site Visit

Peer Review Assessment

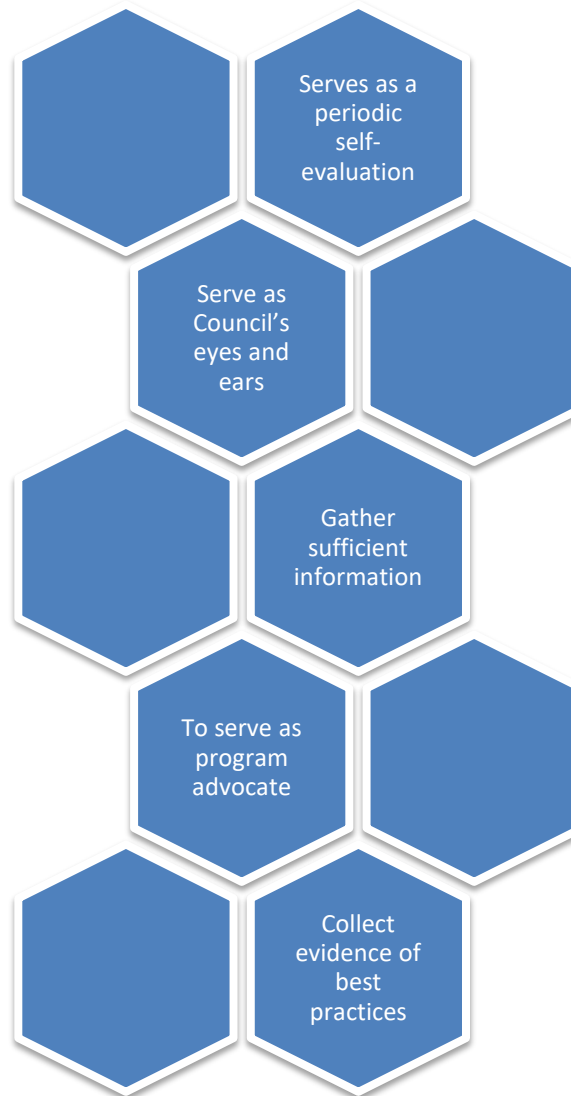


Council Deliberations

Council Determines
Accreditation Status



Purpose of the Site Visit



Site Visit Process

Entrance Briefing

Program Review

Facility Walk-through

IACUC/OB Meeting

Document Review

Executive Session

Exit Briefing



Program Review



Review/clarify aspects of program using the Program Description



Site visitors may request additional supporting information



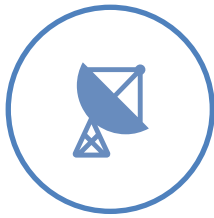
Facility Walk-through



Health of animals



Research staff
engagement



Sanitation/Repair of
facilities/satellites



Emergency Contacts
& veterinary support



Collaborations



Laboratory visits



Key Program Components

Administration

Occupational
Health and
Safety

Veterinary Care

IACUC/Oversight
Body

Physical
Plant/HVAC

Animal
Environments



Occupational Health and Safety Program

MUST be part of an overall animal care and use program

Participation of all at-risk employees

- PPE risk assessment and training

Extent and level of participation

- Risk assessment performed
 - Job related risks
 - Personal health risks



Program Components

Workplace Risk/ Safety Assessment

- ✓ Allergies, Autoclaves, Biohazards, Bites/ Scratches, Cage washers, Chemicals, Radiation, Waste anesthetic gases, Zoonoses

Personnel Risk Assessment

- ✓ *Identifying at-risk personnel (job risks)*
- ✓ Initial (Pre-placement)
- ✓ Periodic

Personnel Protection – Hierarchy

- ✓ Engineering safeguards; Procedures/Policies/SOPs; PPE

Medical Services

- ✓ Illness, Accident response & treatment, Immunization/ preventive medicine, OH professional

Training – Must be ongoing

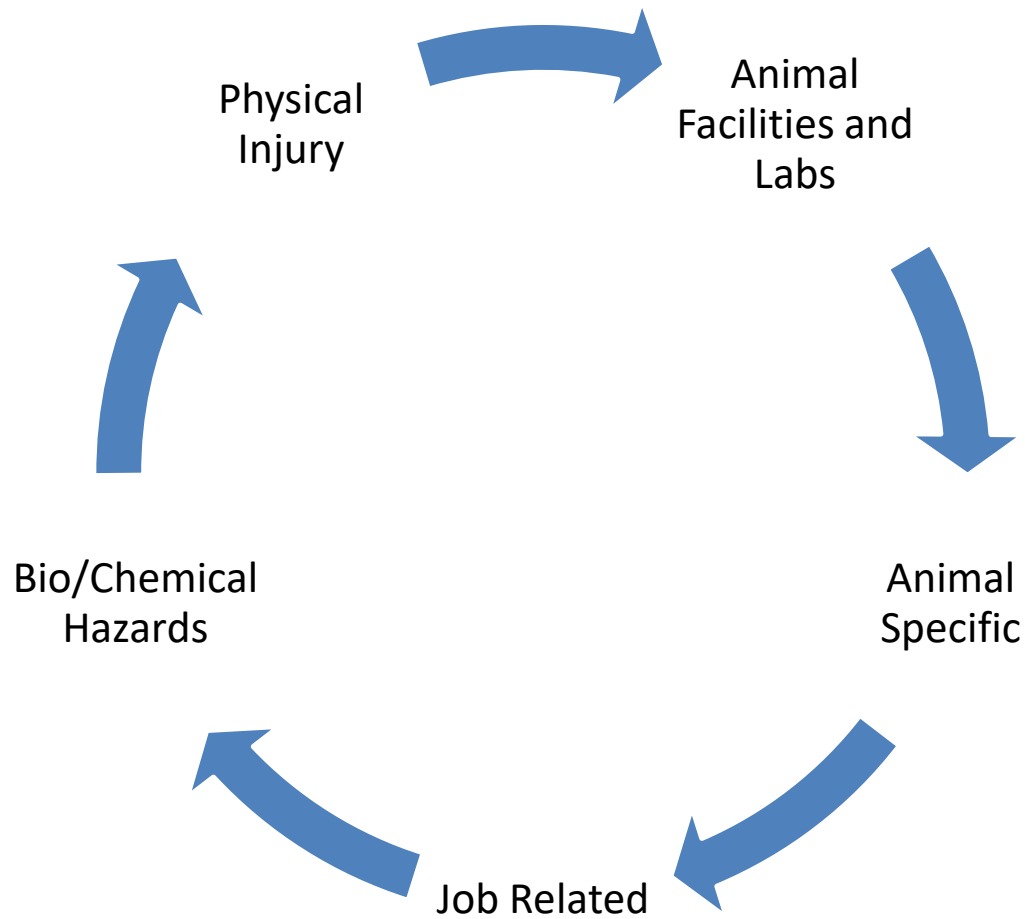


Respiratory Protection as Part of Occupational Health and Safety

- Step 1: Risk Assessment
- Step 2: Engineering vs PPE Controls
- Step 3: Medical Evaluation
- Step 4: Fit Testing
- Step 5: Training/PPE Maintenance/On Going Review

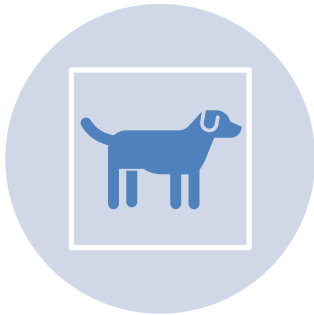


Hazard/Risk Identification



Health History Evaluation

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PRIOR TO ANIMAL WORK



PERIODIC MEDICAL
EVALUATIONS



APPROPRIATE
IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE



Occupational Health and Safety Program

Documented declinations of participation



Hazard Identification performed routinely



Waste anesthetic gas exposure



Allergy awareness and mitigation



Zoonoses awareness and prevention

Macacine alphaherpesvirus 1 (Herpes B virus)

SOPs and
training

Risk assessment
and education

First aid supplies
and access

PPE



Summary

Integrate into animal care program

Identify hazards and risks

Mitigate hazards and risks

Periodic reassessments



The site visit should be a positive experience and an opportunity to demonstrate that you are remaining diligent, staying current with regulatory requirements and ever evolving industry standards, while maintaining a high level of excellence.



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High Standards of Humane and Responsible Animal Care

For more
information...

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www.aaalac.org



A world where excellence in
animal welfare and science
converge.





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Thank you!

aaalac.org | accredit@aaalac.org

