



Johns Hopkins University Animal Care and Use Committee

Visitor Guidelines for Johns Hopkins University Vivaria¹

PURPOSE:

To describe the general guidelines for visitors requiring entry into Johns Hopkins University centrally managed animal facilities.

BACKGROUND:

Individuals who are non-JHU employees and/or are not listed on a JHU ACUC approved protocol (hence forward defined as “visitors”) may require access to JHU animal facilities. Examples of visitors include vendors, visiting scientists, students, and externs. Additionally, visitors, unless otherwise authorized, do not have card key access to the animal facility and require an escort. JHU-employed maintenance, facilities, security, and custodial staff as well as University contractors are not considered visitors and will not be covered in this guideline.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

All personnel and visitors must adhere to Health, Safety, and Environment Policy HSE025 – “Access to Restricted Areas”.

All visitors must be granted approval by a Faculty Veterinarian, the Director/Managers of Laboratory Animal Management, or the ACUC Office. Visitors on non-official business (i.e., relatives or personal acquaintances of staff) will not be considered for access.

Visitors (i.e., students, visiting scientists, vendors training staff to use research equipment) who are not listed as JHU ACUC-approved personnel MAY NOT touch or physically handle any live animals.

All visitors must be escorted by a designee approved by a Faculty Veterinarian, the Director/Managers of Laboratory Animal Management, or the ACUC Office. Adherence to all Personal Protective Equipment signage, animal facilities traffic patterns, and facility SOPs and instructions are mandatory and must be ensured by the visitor’s escort.

Visitors who have entered non-JHU animal facilities within the last 24 hours require additional approval by the Attending Veterinarian or designee.

Prior to entry, visitors must complete the Vivaria Access Log and a waiver as described in SOP GP-15 Animal Facility Access, available on the RAR website.

REFERENCES:

- SOP GP-16 “Animal Facility Access” - <https://researchanimalresources.jhu.edu/>
- JHU Vivarium Access Log, available at facility entrances
- HSE025 – “Access to Restricted Areas” - [Health, Safety and Environment | Johns Hopkins Medicine](#) see Quick Links, then Guidance Documents, and then Safety Policies.
- Acknowledgement of Voluntary Escorted Laboratory Access, Training, and Ability to Wear Assigned Personal Protective Equipment – Animal Facilities (Vivaria)
- Waiver form “Assumption of Risk, General Release of Liability and Indemnity Agreement”

¹Approved by the JHU Animal Care & Use Committee 2/15/24; updated April 2024