E. The risk-based occupational health and safety program for personnel working in laboratory animal facilities and personnel who have frequent contact with animals is as follows:

The Laboratory Animal Occupational Health Program (LAOHP) at Whitman College is administered through the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, in cooperation with the IACUC and the Welty Student Health Center. The LAOHP provides information and safeguards for working with laboratory animals in the classroom, in the laboratory and in the field with respect to:

* Hazard identification and risk assessment
  + Medical surveillance needs vary greatly due to the diverse nature of the animal caretakers and users, as well as behavioral versus field studies, so they are customized to meet each requirement.
  + All teaching and research activities are described in protocols that the IACUC reviews and approves before animal work may commence. The IACUC review identifies potential hazards associated with the animal work so that the risks to personnel are minimized and the appropriate safeguards and training for personnel are put in place before work may begin. The IACUC review process encompasses selecting the appropriate biosafety levels, engineering controls, microbiological practices safety equipment, facility standards, training, and medical surveillance practices. The goal is to prevent illness or injury by reducing risk to the lowest level possible.
  + Each PI is responsible for assessing potential risk to individual animal users and for providing the appropriate training and safeguards as recommended by the IACUC or the Office of Environmental Health and Safety.
  + All individuals who work with animals are required to complete a health history questionnaire to be reviewed by trained medical personnel at the Welty Student Health Center.
  + Risk assessment for animal activities is based on the physical and biological hazards characteristics of the species, the frequency, intensity, and duration of exposure, the use of hazardous materials, and the occupational illness and injury experience of the animal facility.
  + Emergency procedures are posted in critical locations within the animal facility as well as the Emergency Management page of the Safety webpage (http://www.whitman.edu/content/emergency/what-to-do)
* Personnel training regarding zoonotic diseases, chemical safety, physical hazards, allergies, handling of waste materials
  + All personnel at the Institution that work in laboratories, or may otherwise potentially come into contact with hazardous agents are required to receive training organized by the PI in consultation with the IACUC and Office of Environmental Health and Safety prior to beginning work.
  + The IACUC provides individual PIs with the appropriate handouts used to train new animal users and handlers as well as students on potential zoonotic diseases and allergies to laboratory animals.
  + All personnel are also instructed to contact their personal physician in the event of pregnancy, illness, or decreased immunocompetence.
  + The PI is responsible for maintaining training records and these must be made available to the IACUC upon request.
* Personal & Occupational hygiene
  + Eating, drinking, and smoking are prohibited in the animal care facility, and research areas.
  + Personnel who have no need to use the facilities, or who are unusually susceptible to animal-related illnesses are excluded from the animal care facilities.
  + Personnel are instructed to wash their hands when they leave the animal area or after handling animals, either in the lab or in the field.
* Facilities, procedures, and monitoring
  + Facilities and procedures are monitored closely by the PI whenever animals are being housed in the facility.
  + The facilities are also inspected by institutional personnel responsible for compliance with OSHA and state regulations for fire safety, workplace safety, hazardous material storage and disposal, ventilation, and other environmental safety factors.
* Personal protective equipment (PPE)
  + Lab coats, gloves, masks, and goggles as protective gear.  The workers wear lab coats and gloves when handling the animals, and they use all four items when cleaning.
* Personnel covered
  + All students, faculty and staff who have contact with research or teaching animals (which include handling, cleaning, feeding, exposure to unfixed tissues, or exposure to animal waste or bodily fluids) are enrolled in the program.
  + The PI is responsible for notifying the IACUC when new staff members are hired so that the IACUC can work with the PI to ensure the appropriate training is provided.
* Measures to alleviate identified risks (preventive medicine)
  + Students and staff are made aware of the occupational health risks associated with direct animal contact by the PI.
  + All individuals working with or in an animal room are required to abide with the PPE requirements for that area. These requirements are posted on the door leading into the animal area.
  + All individuals working in animal use areas are encouraged to play an active role in maintaining a safe working environment and to report potential safety hazards to either the PI, IACUC Chair or Director of Environmental Health and Safety.
* Required vaccinations
  + All students, faculty and staff must provide proof of current tetanus immunization that is still effective or obtain a new immunization.
* Reporting and treating injuries.
* A bite/scratch/ injury log is maintained in the Animal Facility. All individuals who work with or around animals or unfixed tissues are informed during their initial training session to inform the PI if any injury occurs. All individuals who sustain an injury are advised to seek treatment regardless of the severity. If anyone in an Animal Facility is experiencing an emergency, Campus Security (ext.5777) is contacted to arrange transportation to the emergency room. All bites, scratches or other injuries must be reported to the PI and recorded in the log.
* Whitman College has a Student Health Center on campus where bites, scratches and other injuries are treated (open 24/7 during academic year). If a student becomes ill when the Student Health Center is closed, they can call the Walla Walla Clinic, Walk-in Clinic (525-3720) or St. Mary’s Convenient Care (522-5171). Campus Security (ext.5777) should be contacted to arrange transportation to the emergency room.