

James Madison University
Animal Facilities
Emergency and Disaster Response Plan
May 2018

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1. Introduction and Scope

The James Madison University (JMU) Animal Facilities Emergency Response Plan supports the overall James Madison University Response Plan. The procedures and plans outlined within seek to protect JMU research animals, personal safety of those caring for the animals, protection of research projects (data), and protection of the environment. In all cases, human safety and well-being takes first priority followed by environmental health, animal welfare and overall facility integrity. The animal facilities include the ground floor of the Biosciences building (A3B) and the ground floor of Miller Hall. The list of emergency personnel is located at the entrance to each of these facilities. (Appendix A)

This Plan recognizes that it is not possible to anticipate all possible emergency scenarios and the specific actions required, thus a careful assessment and high level of professional judgment are required. This process includes cooperation with other internal JMU departments and local, state and federal agencies.

The goals of this Plan are to:

- Provide for the health and safety of all personnel
- Avoid or minimize adverse impacts on animal welfare
- Avoid or minimize impacts on research

2. Emergencies and Disasters Defined

A disaster is a sudden, unexpected event that endangers and potentially harms human life, the environment and/or property. Disasters may be natural in origin such as: tornados, fires, ice and snow storms, or man-made in origin such as: chemical spills/explosions, terrorist attacks, or extended power outages. This plan will take an all-hazards approach to preparedness, response, mitigation and recovery.

Emergency incidents are unexpected events that threaten to interrupt the usual day-to-day activities of the business and are generally resolved within hours if not sooner. Examples include loss of electrical power, suspicious letters/packages, sewer backup, and medical emergencies. Occasionally, minor incidents become more complicated than anticipated. No incident should be underestimated until resolved, and all incidents should be taken very seriously.

3. Notification Priority List

The individual initially identifying the emergency should exit the emergency area and find a working telephone in a safe location. JMU Vivarium facility manager must be contacted. The JMU vivarium facility manager is responsible for overseeing emergency animal care and husbandry. This individual is also responsible for contacting the JMU Attending Veterinarian in the event of an emergency that could impact animal life. The list of emergency personnel is located at the entrance to each of these facilities. (Appendix A)

4. Communications Plan

JMU staff communicate by a variety of means including landline phones and cell

phones. All communication devices should be kept in good working order and charged daily. When these lines of communication are not functional, staff should consult public broadcasting radio for information on the incident. Communications with principal investigators during a disaster will be accomplished by landline phones and cell phones.

Emergency contact information for Principal Investigators and JMU animal care personnel is posted adjacent to every animal room in the animal facility. A copy of such contact information and the entire JMU Emergency and Disaster Plan will be kept with JMU Office of Research Integrity. The emergency contact numbers are updated at least every six (6) months. All outside media communication should be handled by the JMU Public Affairs office.

5. Procedures for Animal Handling during Emergencies

In the event that an emergency arises during a surgery or similarly critical operation it is important to ensure proper animal handling while taking into account the safety of animal care personnel. The following guidelines should be considered only when conditions are not immediately life-threatening and can be performed within a reasonable timeframe. Additional instructions may be provided by senior staff who are responsible for directing personnel during emergencies and hazardous conditions.

Awake/unanesthetized animals:

- Return to nearest cages (home or transport) and make sure unsecured cages are on ground (to prevent falling).

Sedated/anesthetized animals:

Animals with incisions

Use the most expedient euthanasia method for animals: Bilateral thoracotomy or diaphragmatic puncture if open abdomen surgery (all species).

If using inhalant anesthesia, leave animal at current level:

- Cervical dislocation ($\leq 200g$ rodents) if trained
- Overdose injectable anesthetic or euthanasia solution if available
- Asphyxiation via CO₂
- If no time for thoracotomy or other physical method, and using inhalant anesthesia, increase inhalant to highest setting (all species) and evacuate.

Animals without incisions / those with minor skin incisions

- Extubate and/or remove other tubes and devices, then place animals in cages (home or nearby), or
- Euthanize by most expedient method (as listed in above bullet points).

6. Post-Emergency Handling

Take appropriate precautions when handling animals during or after an emergency because

they may be stressed and react differently. For example, larger animals (e.g., dogs) may be more prone to bite, while smaller animals may be more likely to jump or bite.

7. Bomb Threats

Bomb threats are usually received by telephone or sometimes by note, letter, or e-mail. **All potential bomb threats must be taken seriously and handled as though an explosive is in the building. Go to https://jmu.edu/safetyplan/bomb_threats.shtml**

8. Animal Rights Activities/Threats

Due to the lack of security parameters and openness of the JMU campus, it is not unlikely that Animal Rights activists could gain access to the animal facilities. Additionally, the grounds and parking area are open and publicly accessible.

If you suspect activists on the grounds:

- Avoid confrontation
- Notify the **JMU Police (540)568-6911**
- If you learn of planned animal activist demonstrations targeting JMU, contact your supervisor immediately or call the JMU police. If a BREAK-IN or other illegal act is in progress, call 568-6911 immediately.

9. Procedures for Animal Bites/Scratches

Animal bites or scratches can expose personnel to biologic hazards transmitted through contaminated saliva, secretions, blood or infected wounds.

Proper work practices markedly reduce the chances of bites and scratches:

- Exercise caution at all times
- Wear appropriate protective clothing (gloves, lab coats, safety glasses).
- Work with at least one other person when handling fractious animals.
- Use chemical restraint rather than physical restraint if necessary.

If you are bitten or scratched:

- **CLEANSE AND IRRIGATE** the wound with soap and running water for at least three minutes. Use soap and warm water but do not scrub the wound.
- If bite/scratch occurs during emergency/disaster situation, report to medical first responders.
- **NOTIFY the Vivarium facility manager and Attending Veterinarian**, and take whatever measures are necessary to identify and isolate the animal for evaluation and observation. A staff veterinarian must examine the biting animal.

10. Facility Related Emergencies

Power Failures

- Call the **JMU Facilities Dispatch (540) 568-6913** to report the power failure. *Emergency Generators are provided for powering both the Biosciences and Miller Hall vivaria.*

Broken Pipes/Floods

- Call the **JMU Facilities Dispatch (540) 568-6913** to report the broken pipe.

Preparation for Snow Storm

- If heavy snowfall is expected, JMU staff are advised to refill food and water, and supply the animals with an extra full water bottle.
- If snowfall may interrupt a planned study, the staff should reschedule pending animal manipulations that will allow optimum animal care and scientific data collection.

11. Re-entry and Evacuation of Animals

When it is determined that animal housing areas are safe for entry, the following information must be made available

- A safety plan for re-entry must be written
- A plan for euthanasia and evacuation of animals with priorities must be available to the JMU staff. The priorities will be determined by the JMU Vivarium facility manager and the Attending Veterinarian.
- A plan for carcass disposal of any euthanized or found-dead animals must be available.

Animal Evacuation and Alternate Housing Locations

Animals may, as an alternative to euthanasia, be evacuated to other secure areas, depending upon the availability of space for housing, emergency circumstances, and the species and number of animals involved.

It is the responsibility of the individual managing the evacuation of animals to ensure housing, husbandry, emergency care and security for any animals relocated from the vivarium. Decisions concerning euthanasia or evacuation of animals will be made by the JMU Vivarium facility manager in consultation with the JMU Attending Veterinarian and, if possible, the PIs and Study Directors.

Prioritizing Animals for Evacuation/Euthanasia

Order of priority:

- Animals of special value
- Founder stock transgenics
- USDA-covered species
- Mice (not of the genus *Mus*); Rats (not of the genus *Rattus*)

- Non-USDA-covered species

Barrier or Quarantine

- Animals in the barrier room or quarantine areas will NOT be evacuated unless they can be safely moved to another appropriate area.
- Animals to be evacuated must be transported from the animal rooms to outside and/or to another building in their original cages or racks, if possible. If animals are in cages/racks that cannot be moved or are damaged, secured transport caging must be used to transport animals.
- Racks should be identified with the room number from which they came. Some system of marking animals removed from their original cages/room should be established for later identification purposes (e.g., index cards/tape/markers).
- If the emergency backup power fails, animals in individually ventilated cages will need to be euthanized.

Disposal of Animal Carcasses

Animal carcasses should be bagged and stored in the facility's dedicated freezer or refrigerator. These materials will be removed from site via a contract commercial biohazardous waste company on an as needed basis.

12. Reporting Animal Welfare

As soon as possible, the Attending Veterinarian and/or another member of the Committee should report deviations from the Animal Welfare Act, the Guide and/or deviations from JMU IACUC policies and guidelines as a result of the disaster. Clients and/or funding agencies will be notified as appropriate.

Appendix A: Emergency Contact Information Biosciences Building (A3B)

	Contact	Office	Emergency
Laboratory Coordinator (mammalian)	Chris Lantz	(540) 568-2840	(540) 810-5051
Laboratory Coordinator (aquatics)	Chris Rose	(540) 568-6666	(540) 475-3523
Vivarium Facility Manager	Mike Love	(540) 568-4091	(540) 683-1606
Veterinarian	Annette Hildabrand	(703) 622-8130	(703) 622-8130
Campus Police	Nights/Weekends	(540) 568-6912	(540) 568-6911
Safety Coordinator	Tony Brown	(540) 568-6765	
Work Control		(540) 568-6101	(540) 568-6913

Miller Hall

	Contact	Office	Emergency
Laboratory Coordinator	Suzanne Baker	(540) 568-7832	(540) 292-4870
Vivarium Facility Manager	Mike Love	(540) 568-4091	(540) 683-1606
Veterinarian	Annette Hildabrand	(703) 622-8130	(703) 622-8130
Campus Police	Nights/Weekends	(540) 568-6912	(540) 568-6911
Building Coordinator	Cathy Fisher	(540) 568-2555	(540) 820-9669
Work Control		(540) 568-6101	(540) 568-6913