

# FIELD RESEARCH SAFETY HAZARD GUIDELINE

## ANIMALS-GENERAL

Hazards	Potential Hazards	You may encounter wildlife, livestock, or domestic pets during your fieldwork. Even docile looking animals (cows or even chipmunks) can act violently and unpredictable. Disease from bacteria, viruses, parasites, or fungi can be transmitted from animals by scratches, bites, or contact with bodily fluids. Symptoms of disease can vary. Diseases include: <b>Salmonella, E-Coli, Rabies and Hantavirus</b>
Hazard Controls	Personal Protective Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long pants and shirts with long sleeves</li> <li>• Closed toe shoes.</li> <li>• Leather gloves, when handling leaf litter</li> <li>• High visibility clothing</li> <li>• Bear spray (can deter attacks from aggressive animals)</li> <li>• Task appropriate PPE, if handling animals as a part of a research protocol</li> </ul>
	Preparation and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research animals of concern and be able to identify them in the field.</li> <li>• Research potential zoonotic disease that may be present in local species.</li> <li>• Research behavioral patterns and recommended response to aggressive encounter. You may need to change your behavior or gear to avoid, or respond to, an aggressive encounter.</li> <li>• It is recommended you take courses in:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Basic First Aid</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	General Work Practice Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not approach or feed any animals, domestic or wild.</li> <li>• Conduct field work during daylight hours, as animals may be more active at dawn and dusk.</li> <li>• Take extreme caution if it is breeding season or if there are young animals present in your field area.</li> <li>• Know the local hunting season and wear high visibility clothing if you are out during these seasons.</li> <li>• Avoid rodents and other scavengers by keeping a clean campsite/work area with food stored in sealed containers.</li> <li>• Avoid interacting with feces or remains of animals, especially rodents.</li> <li>• Do not approach animals that appear to be injured or sick; their behavior may be erratic and defensive.</li> <li>• Contact with animals with known zoonotic disease should be limited and conducted with appropriate precautions.</li> <li>• If you come across a gate that you must pass through, leave it the way you found it. Leaving a gate open could lead to loss of livestock and significant property damages. Closing gates could separate livestock from food and water reserves.</li> <li>• After any potential contact with animals, wash hand thoroughly.</li> </ul>
O	Waste	Containerize, remove, and properly dispose all generated waste when you leave the area.

	<b>Emergencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address immediate injuries with first aid measures. Clean wound thoroughly.</li> <li>• Always seek medical attention after a scratch or bite from an animal to prevent infection and to receive a consultation about possible prophylactic treatment for rabies.</li> <li>• If you become sick after contact with animals or their bodily fluids, seek medical attention and be sure to describe the species that was involved and the nature of the contact.</li> </ul>
	<b>Reference and Additional Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Park Service: <a href="#">Safe Practices to Avoid Zoonotic Disease from Wildlife: Quick Reference Guide</a></li> <li>• Center for Disease Control: <a href="#">National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Disease (NCEZID)</a></li> </ul>
	<b>Questions</b>	Contact Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (EHRS) at (215) 707-2520