



NEWSLETTER

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Occupational Health and Safety Enrollment Needed

AACUP Intern – Katie Speller

Congratulations to Katie Speller. She has been accepted into the Class of 2011 in the College of Veterinary Medicine at UIUC. Katie is an AACUP intern and has been working with us since August 2006. She assists the Attending Veterinarian for Agricultural Animals at UIUC and the team of Species Specialist Veterinarians who oversee the health care for University-owned agricultural animals. Katie has had experience working at veterinary clinics and has spent several months working at the Dixon Springs Agricultural Center in southern Illinois. Katie plans to work in food animal medicine when she finishes her training and would like to locate in Southern Illinois. During the remainder of her internship this summer, Katie will be available to assist researchers and graduate students in research and teaching projects involving agricultural animals. Katie's services are a courtesy provided through the AACUP.

AAALAC, I. Site Visit Scheduled for July 30 through August 3, 2007

The Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International has scheduled a site visit to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The UIUC attained accreditation in 2001 for the entire animal care program including both laboratory and agricultural animal facilities and operations. AAALAC, I., a not-for-profit voluntary assessment organization comprised of scientists and animal experts from around the world, visits accredited institutions once every 3 years to review their animal care programs and make recommendations for improvements. The site visit team will tour all of the animal facilities.

A new web-based Occupational Health and Safety Program has been launched for university employees, researchers and students exposed to animals and animal housing areas. The program is designed to evaluate a participant's health and safety risks based on their exposure to research and teaching animals. It is mandatory that all persons with possible exposures be enrolled in the program; this includes animal care staff, researchers, students, and other employees who have access to the animal facilities such as building service and maintenance workers in Facilities and Services. To enroll in the program, visit www.research.uiuc.edu/OHS and click "Enroll Now". You will be directed to log in and complete the Animal Care and Use Risk Assessment form. Once this form is submitted, you are enrolled in the program. The Occupational Health and Safety Specialist will review your exposures and provide you with educational fact sheets regarding potential risks. You will also be given an opportunity to complete and submit a Health Screening Questionnaire. Completion of the Health Screening Questionnaire is not mandatory but is strongly suggested as it will allow a health professional to better assess your personal risks based on your specific animal exposures and health history. The information regarding your personal health history is strictly confidential and is submitted directly to the Animal Care and Use Program Registered Nurse at McKinley Health Center. All recommendations will be communicated directly to you from the nurse. Both forms will need to be updated if your exposures change. An annual email will be sent to all participants asking them to review and update the forms as needed. Additional training and education information will be available on the OHS website soon. If you have any questions concerning the OHS Program, please contact Sara Myers, at 244-0781 or skottwit@uiuc.edu.