

The Occupational Health & Safety Program

(OHSP)

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Production and Supply of Minipigs for Biomedical Research (<http://minipigs.angrin.tlri.gov.tw/>)



Introduction

Taitung Animal Propagation Station (TAPS), a branch of the Livestock Research Institute (LRI), is a government subsidized laboratory, located in southeastern Taiwan. The mission of TAPS is to breed, supply and conduct biomedical experiments of special breeds of Lanyu minipigs.

In addition to the animal welfare program (AAALAC accredited), the occupational health & safety program (OHSP) of employees is also enforced. Zero safety incidence is the goal of TAPS and no employee safety incidence has occurred for the past years.

OHSP of TAPS

The OHSP provides information and procedures to protect the health and safety of individuals working with or near research animals. The program is administered in accordance with applicable laws and guidance, e.g. national Occupational Safety and Health Act, Guide for care and use for laboratory animal as well as other regulatory requirements.

The OHSP has 3 parts:

Risk assessment

Safety operation

Safety training

The Director of TAPS (IO) oversees the OHSP program. Each department head takes the corresponding safety responsibility of the department's expertise, i.e. Livestock Technology Department for animal facility and surrounding area; Administration Department for the environment and machinery, etc. The IO correlate the unclear or overlapping area.

The facility's IACUC reviews and analyses the risk factors and advises improvement plan.

The overall risk origin of TAPS may come from natural disaster, equipment, and staff procedures.



Typhoon and landslide disaster drills

Natural disaster

TAPS is located at hillside of southeast Taiwan, where is on the path of typhoons. To ensure the safety of the facility from possible mud or land slide caused by typhoon and earthquake, building construction strengthening and area conservancy engineering are constantly in progress. Annual risk assessment provides recommendations for such necessary activities, like to build animal breeding facilities, soil and water conservation program and build detention pond and flood-spars channels, etc. Also, every year before the flood periods will exercise the disaster prevention drills and assess the structural situation of the facilities

Equipment operation

All equipment are procured according to the Government Procurement Law, by public bidding to purchase machinery, equipment and instruments, and also to review the equipment qualities and vendor qualifications. Equipment in use should have regular maintenance, lifetime setting and inspection. The operators are subject to complete training, familiar with methods of operation and the related security matters. Leaders should

OHS Staff Education



SOP training course (twice a month)



Maneuvering of emergency escape



CPR & AED practicing



Disaster prevent & rescue exercise

OHS



●Physical checkup & medical evaluation



●Immunizations (Inﬂuenza)



●The use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

actually check whether the operator compliance with the sops of safe work procedures, and evaluate whether the operator need re-education or re-training or improve the sops.

Operation safety

The major procedure performed by TAPS staff includes animal husbandry, research procedure, and medical procedures. Standard operation procedures (SOPs) are established for each procedure to avoid injury or diseases. SOP *Appropriate gowning and protection* training and examination of the awareness to individual operator is constantly performed. Appropriate gowning and protection gear SOPs are also in place, Each related SOP also states the response procedure to possible accident.

Safety training

The supervisor of Livestock Technology Department and pointed inspectors are responsible for the assurance of safety procedures being conducted. Additional training and procedure improvement are held when needed. Routine training is held twice a month internally of each department. New workers are subjected to finishing and pass the training before actual working in the post. A total of 40 hours on job training is required annually for each employee. Health (physical / mental) surveillance of workers is

conducted continuously. Unsuitable employees will be helped and transferred to suitable position. Others,speech presentation from special experts e.g. fire department, or labor law department etc. is invited on site periodically.