



MANOR
COLLEGE



Program of Veterinary Technology

Emergency and Evacuation Plan For On-campus Animals

Introduction:

The following protocols have been developed to address emergency and evacuation protocols of on-campus animals that are used in the Program of Veterinary Technology.

Animals used in the Program are kept in the Small Animal Clinical Laboratory (Room 15) and in the Laboratory Animal Holding Room, which is located in the back of Room 18. In the event of any of the following situations, both rooms must be checked for the presence of animals and evacuated as described below.

Program personnel should be contacted immediately if and when there is a change in water, heating, or other environmental conditions that would affect animals. In addition, Program personnel must be notified in advance if water or electricity will be shut off by maintenance. In the event of emergency, every effort should be made to contact VT personnel. Manor security and maintenance personnel will carry out the evacuation procedures in the absence of VT faculty and staff.

Below is the chain of command for the Program of Veterinary Technology. It is essential that maintenance and security personnel keep these numbers accessible for use during an emergency (i.e. keep a copy of this policy at home in the event of an emergency during the night).

Emergency Contact information for Veterinary Technology:

Call phone numbers until you reach someone directly. Leave a messages with each call.

Dr. Joanna Bassert
E-mail: jbassert@manor.edu

Beverly Bisaccia, CVT
Email: bbisaccia@manor.edu

Campus Security (215) 885-2360 Residence Hall post: Ext. 292, Office Ext. 459 or 316

POWER OUTAGE:

Room 15 (Small Animal Clinical Lab):

Dogs and cats are housed for short periods of time (less than 24 hours) in Room 15 and are typically owned by students, faculty members or PACCA. Cats and dogs in general manage well with temperatures ranging from 60 to 85. However, if these animals have been anesthetized, they are more susceptible to cold. Therefore, if the room temperature drops below 65 degrees F or if room temps exceed 85 degrees F, the cats and dogs should be evacuated to the nearest heated/cooled building. In the event of a regional blackout, the animals should be transported to the heated/cooled garage of the maintenance department that is powered by a generator.

Carriers for cats are located on top of the cages and leashes for dogs are available in the drawer labeled "restraint." All cats must be transported in carriers and all dogs must be on leashes.

Room 18 (Radiology)

Coordinator: Beverly Bisaccia, BS, CVT

Laboratory animals, including rabbits, rats, mice, guinea pigs, and hamsters, are housed in this facility during the spring semester (January through May).

Water:

In the event of power outage, water must be provided to the laboratory animals manually (via water bottle or bowl). The automatic watering system runs on electricity and will shut off. Therefore, adequate numbers of water bottles must be available for all animals at all times in the event of a power outage.

Heating and Cooling:

Air for the laboratory animal facility is drawn from the hallway via ceiling air vents. This is possible, because the walls of the facility extend only a foot or two above the suspended ceiling and do not reach the height of the concrete ceiling, leaving a large conduit through which air can be drawn via the negative pressure of a window fan. In this way, heated air enters the room from the hallway. The building as a whole would have to cool to 68 degrees F, before the animals would need evacuation during the winter months and 83 degrees F during the warm months.

Rabbits:

During evacuation of Room 18, rabbits would remain in their cages and the entire rack would be wheeled across the parking lot to the garage under the dormitory where the maintenance department houses a generator. In the event of rain or snow the rack would be covered with a protective waterproof sheet such as large, slit trash bags.

Rodents:

Guinea pigs are particularly sensitive to cold. If the ambient temperature drops below 68 degrees F, they will need to be evacuated. If there are a modest number of rodents, individual shoebox cages can be placed on a cart and transported to the maintenance department's garage. If not, the entire rodent rack will need to be moved.

Both the rabbit and rodent racks are on wheels, which allow them to be moved through the closest exit door to the parking lot. Due to their size, it will require two individuals to move them.

FIRE:

OSHA requires that humans evacuate the building as soon as possible, and does not recommend that human life be risked to save animals. However, if time permits, animals might be evacuated as described above with cats in carriers, dogs on leashes and the rabbit and rodent racks wheeled out to the parking lot. Emphasis should be on speed and getting the animals out of the building as soon as possible rather than on protecting the animals from inclement weather, for example, by taking the time to apply cumbersome covers over racks. If a fire should occur during class time when there are many hands available, evacuation of animals might be possible. If, on the other hand, it occurred in the middle of the night when the building is empty, an attempted rescue of animals by one or two security guards would not be prudent.

If a fire should occur during surgery and while an animal is under anesthesia, the entire anesthesia machine, which is on wheels, would accompany the anesthetized patient. A sterile drape would be placed over the incision.

FLOODING:

Although the location of the Academic Building makes storm flooding unlikely, the possibility of flooding due to plumbing problems is plausible and has occurred in the past. However, an active floor drain, located in Room 18 allows for rapid drainage of water accumulation diminishing the chances of flooding to the bottom of the rabbit and rodent racks. Nevertheless, in the event that flooding requires evacuation of animals, the racks can be wheeled out of the room and into a dry classroom such as Room 15, 16 or 17.

Of greater likely hood is that the automatic watering system, which delivers water to the animal racks, will leak into the animal cages from the access port. In this event, water will flood an individual cage and possibly over flow into cages below. Evening custodial staff and student animal care takers are most likely to discover the flood and report it to maintenance. Maintenance, in turn, would contact the Program Director and Education Coordinators at the contact numbers above.

TERRORIST ATTACK, BOMB THREAT, ETC.:

Refer to the College manual titled "Terrorist Attacks – Crisis Emergency Procedures" for information regarding evacuation of student, faculty and staff populations.

In the event that evacuation of animals, under these circumstances, is both possible and practical, the animals will be transported via car to the Rockledge Veterinary Hospital, which are located less than one mile from the college. Cats and rabbits must be transported in carriers and dogs must be on leashes. Rodents must be transported in shoebox cages with wire lids and water bottles. Rodent and Rabbit food must also be transported with the animals.

Location for Off-campus Evacuation of Animals:

Dr. Francine Rubin,
Rockledge Veterinary Hospital,
2 South Sylvania Ave.,
Rockledge, PA 19046
(W) (215) 379-1677