IANR POLICY ON PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE OUTBREAKS IN ANIMAL RESEARCH FACILITIES

Although USDA-APHIS has primary responsibility for preventing the entry of serious animal diseases into the United States, IANR has an obligation to ensure that our research animals are protected to the greatest extent possible because of the huge public investments in these programs. Unit administrators are in a key position to ensure that very serious infectious diseases are prevented from entry into IANR animal research facilities. Accordingly, the following procedures are in effect in regards to preventing the infection of our research animals by the foot and mouth virus or other serious diseases not present in the United States such as hog cholera:

Employees and Students:

a. Faculty, staff and graduate students are discouraged from visiting countries at risk for foot and mouth disease or other serious animal diseases.

a. Any employee or student who has traveled outside the United States within the previous fourteen day period will not be allowed to enter IANR animal research facilities. The cognizant unit administrator may approve requests for waiver of this policy on a case by case basis as described for domestic visitors. Employees or students traveling to at-risk countries should also avoid contact with commercial livestock for a minimum of five days after returning to the United States.

c. Employees should take appropriate preventative action to avoid cross contamination if a family member has traveled to any of the at-risk countries.

International Visitors:

a. Every international visitor desiring to visit an IANR animal research facility must complete a questionnaire which will provide information regarding the visitor's country of origin, countries visited during the past two weeks, and contact with animals during the past two weeks. These questionnaires will be present in the office of the cognizant unit administrator. It is the host faculty member's responsibility to ensure that all international visitors complete this questionnaire.

b. Entry of visitors from countries at risk from foot and mouth disease and other serious diseases will not be allowed to visit IANR animal research facilities.

c. Visitors from non-at-risk countries will be allowed to visit IANR animal research facilities only with the explicit approval of the cognizant unit administrator provided that they have not been in a country that has foot and mouth disease during the past fourteen days.
Domestic Visitors

b. Every visitor desiring to enter an IANR animal research facility must complete a questionnaire which will provide information regarding countries visited during the past two weeks and recent visits to farms or contact with animals. These questionnaires will be present in the office of the cognizant unit administrator. It is the host faculty member’s responsibility to ensure that all visitors complete this questionnaire.

b. Any person who has traveled outside the United States within the previous fourteen day period will not be allowed to enter IANR animal research facilities. The cognizant unit administrator may approve requests for waiver of this policy on a case by case basis (i.e., travel involved countries free of foot and mouth disease or other serious animal diseases or travel did not include visits to farms or contact with animals).

The foot and mouth virus can be carried by humans on their clothing, shoes, body (particularly the throat and nasal passages) and personal items. Pets such as dogs, cats and horses cannot contract the disease but they can be carriers. Detailed information about foot and mouth disease is available on the following web site:


The following additional safety precautions will be followed by all visitors, employees and students:

a. Persons entering animal research facilities should wear clean clothes (washed since being in a foreign country)

b. Shoes worn in a foreign country must be washed meticulously and disinfected before they are worn.

c. The research facility should provide boots, overshoes, or disposable plastic foot covers for visitors.

d. No food, especially those containing meat products, from foreign countries should be brought on to the premises. Luggage that may contain these products are also prohibited on the premises.

Copies of this policy must be distributed to all faculty, staff, graduate students and undergraduate student employees by the cognizant unit administrator. Responsibility for enforcement of these requirements rests with the unit administrator and all faculty and staff.

Approved:
April 16, 2001