

PURPOSE OF BRIEFINGS

These in-person Briefings are being reinstated post-pandemic as a way to boost collaboration and promote a healthy and safe workplace among researchers and ULAR staff at Penn.

- **Connect** PIs and researchers with the ULAR staff who support their research by providing daily care to our research animals.
- **Educate** ULAR Animal Care Technicians (ACTs), Husbandry Supervisors, and Facility Managers regarding the hazards involved with working with biological agents, recombinant nucleic acids, and human pathogens and to clarify best practices to reduce the risk of exposure or injury to animal facility staff.
- **Coordinate** anticipated housing and care needs, experimental timeline, and potential health outcomes of their animals.
- **Improve** our hazard communication program as essential to our institutional veterinary accreditation (AAALAC) and federal regulatory compliance.



Tips for a Productive Briefing

- Describe your research study using lay terms targeted towards an audience of diverse scientific and educational backgrounds.
- Use an informal, conversational, and approachable style. Each person in the meeting should introduce themselves.
- Plan for this meeting to last around 20 minutes; no powerpoint is required.

BRIEFING TOPICS & QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- Research:** What is the background of the study and animal work? How will this study improve human understanding or health?
- Potential Hazards:** What pathogens/hazardous agents will be used in the animals? Why are they assigned as ABSL2 and how should these agents be handled especially by personnel that work with the animals?
- Risk Mitigation:** What measures are taken to reduce any risks to staff; and beyond wearing appropriate PPE, what additional precautions must be taken?
- Logistics:** What is the length of study and the number of cages involved? Are there any special needs? How will used/dirty PPE and cages be disposed of? When is change day and who will be your ACT?
- Animal Welfare:** How will the animals be impacted and when should animal illness be reported to the clinical team?

To schedule your Animal Hazard Briefing, please fill out the **Briefing Request** form. Once scheduled with your ULAR facility staff, please inform the Biosafety Team (biosafety@lists.upenn.edu).