**Fact Sheet**

**Animal Exposure Risk Assessment (ARA)**

The Animal Exposure Risk Assessment (ARA) is a health risk assessment for anyone working with animals at USC. It is required to be completed prior to conducting research on any protocols involving animals. The ARA gives you the option of being evaluated by a healthcare provider or you may choose to opt out.

**How does it work?**
After you complete the ARA online at [USC-REDCap](https://USC-REDCap), the Occupational Medicine physician will review and evaluate your personal risk for animal work.

**Who needs to fill out an ARA?**
Anyone who works with animals at USC needs to complete the ARA every three years or when you experience significant changes in your health status. NOTE: The ARA is a key part of the Laboratory Animal Allergen Prevention Program.

**What I need to do**
- Visit the EH&S [Occupational Medicine Program](#) web page for more information.
- Read the instructions and fill out the ARA form online at [USC-REDCap](https://USC-REDCap).
- Receive your results.
- Contact EH&S at [biosafety@usc.edu](mailto:biosafety@usc.edu) for more information.

**Do I have to respond?**
Yes. Whether you choose to be evaluated or opt out of evaluation, EH&S needs a response from you to **document your decision**. This is a requirement for working with animals at USC.

**Is my information safe?**
Yes. REDCap software ensures privacy for participants and is HIPAA-compliant. Once information is entered online, a licensed Occupational Medicine physician at Sharp Rees-Stealy (SRS), the Occupational Medicine Healthcare provider, will review your risk assessment.

**NOTE:** USC/EH&S obtains confirmation through REDCap for all employee forms.

**Additional Information**
- EH&S [Occupational Medicine Program](#) web page
- Animal Risk Assessment (ARA) Form online
- Animal Allergy Fact Sheet
- Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals [NRC, 2011](#)

---