

# Laboratory animal allergens – a BVS approach

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Laboratory animal allergens (LAA) are so common in the workplace that approximately 15 to 20% of individuals with no previous allergic condition will become sensitised if no controls are implemented.



BVS recognise both the hazard and risks associated with this and work to reduce the LAA risks through engineering, procedural and personal protective equipment (PPE) controls.

## Engineering controls



- Maintenance of 12 to 16 air changes per hour in the holding rooms.
- Operation of negative pressure holding rooms.
- Increased use of individually ventilated cages for rats and mice.
- Daily use of safe changing stations, downdraft tables, dump stations and LAF cabinets.

## Procedural controls

- Compliance with national/University of Edinburgh/ local policies and guidance.
- Restricted facility entry procedure.
- Comprehensive induction process including mandatory training requirements.

- Robust health surveillance programme.
- Specific procedures for visitors.
- Routine local inspections to check compliance.

Implementation of these BVS controls mitigate the risk of LAA exposure to staff and visitors.



- complete clothes change
- long sleeved tops
- mob caps
- gloves (disposable and permanent)
- respiratory Protection Equipment (RPE)

