

|   |                                     |           |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|--|
|  <b>ROSS UNIVERSITY</b><br><small>EST. 1976</small><br>SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE | <h2>Protective Clothing Policy</h2> | Issued    | 7 August 2010                          |
|   |                                     | Revised   | 22 December 2010                       |
|   |                                     | Authority | Dean for Faculty and Academic Programs |

### 1. Scope:

This policy applies to all members of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, including students, faculty, and staff.

### 2. Procedure

**1.1** All students, staff, and faculty at the RUSVM who are working with animals or biological material should be familiar with the following clothing policy. Failure to comply with this policy may result in disciplinary action. Course syllabi and laboratory manuals can be sources of additional specific information for areas such as research and diagnostic laboratories, necropsy, and the veterinary teaching hospital (VTH).

**1.2** Appropriate footwear means any shoe that covers the entire foot up to at least the ankle. Clogs that have holes in the top are NOT acceptable lab wear.

**1.3** Protective apparel should not be worn away from campus, but rather should be changed into upon arrival and before leaving. Changing areas nearest to student lockers or faculty/staff offices should be utilized. When walking to/from a designated area or to/from another area of campus and remaining there, a clean full length white lab coat should be worn as an outer layer of protective wear over green surgical scrubs to avoid cross contamination between various areas of campus.

#### **1.4 Surgery and Anesthesia**

- The protective clothing for all persons engaged in official activities in surgery and anesthesia areas are solid green scrubs, disposable shoe covers, and caps. Professors of anesthesia wear a different color scrub in order to be more easily visible to students during procedures. Scrubs should be donned in appropriate locations close to the time of surgery and covered with a lab coat at all times when not in surgery.
- Any individual entering the surgery room or surgery preparation areas must also wear green scrubs or a green gown over their clothing.

#### **1.5 Large Animal areas including barns, paddocks, pastures, and stalls**

- When working with livestock in these areas, individuals may wear either coveralls or scrubs (not green surgical scrubs).
- Rubber boots, rubber overshoes, or disposable boots are to be worn over appropriate footwear in areas where contagious diseases transmitted by feces are likely to be encountered or when working in cattle or sheep areas. All footwear worn in the large animal areas must be sprayed off with a hose and properly decontaminated prior to leaving the large animal area.
- For the purpose of anatomy palpation laboratories, students may wear a full-length white lab coat over their street clothing or non-surgical scrubs.

#### **1.6 Diagnostic Laboratories**

- Lab coats are to be worn when bench work is being performed in the laboratories. Closed toed shoes are required to work in the laboratory.

#### **1.7 Clinical Pathology, Parasitology, and Microbiology Student Laboratories**

|                                   |                 |                            |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Ross University School of Vet Med | Page No. 1 of 3 | Protective Clothing Policy |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|

|   |                                     |           |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|--|
|  <b>ROSS UNIVERSITY</b><br><small>EST. 1976</small><br>SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE | <h2>Protective Clothing Policy</h2> | Issued    | 7 August 2010                          |
|   |                                     | Revised   | 22 December 2010                       |
|   |                                     | Authority | Dean for Faculty and Academic Programs |

- Appropriate clothing is a white full-length lab coat worn over clean clothing or non-surgical scrubs.

### 1.8 *Small Animal Hospital*

- Professional attire is expected. Examples of non-professional attire include (but are not limited to) tank tops, blue jeans, t-shirts, halter tops, clothing with offensive language, torn clothing, sweats, or hats.
- Front office reception personnel and VTH technicians are expected to wear clean matching non-surgical scrubs or semi-formal clothing during working hours. They must also wear appropriate protective foot wear.
- All staff in RUVTH must dress professionally at all times. They may either wear semi formal attire with a clean full length lab coat, or clean non-surgical scrubs (unless they are about to enter surgery) while working in the hospital and wear appropriate footwear.
- All students conducting business within the VTH must wear clean professional attire and a clean full length white lab coat. They should also wear appropriate footwear and name tags in the VTH. Everyone who leaves the Small Animal Hospital wearing surgical scrubs must also wear a white laboratory coat as a protective outer layer.

### 1.9 *Anatomy*

- Individuals are required to wear a white laboratory coat, protective gloves (latex or nitrile), and appropriate footwear when handling wet specimens. Students should also wear a nametag. Changing can be done in the bathroom/changing area below anatomy immediately before or after time spent in the anatomy laboratory.

### 1.10 *Necropsy*

- Coveralls or laboratory coats must be worn in all areas of the RUSVM postmortem room when animals or animal tissue are being handled.
- Coveralls and laboratory coats should be clean. If they become soiled, they must be changed for clean garments.
- Rubber boots are required (treaded rubber sole preferred).
- Gloves must be worn at all times.
- Protective eye wear should be used in any situation where ocular exposure to animal fluid might occur.
- A necropsy impervious apron should be used when processing large or medium animals or when a greater exposure to biological fluids is anticipated.
- Long hair must be confined to prevent entanglement with objects and animals.
- Visitors must wear a postmortem room laboratory coat and disposable protective footwear covers.

### 1.11 *Clinical Skills*

- Semesters 1-7 are required to wear closed toed shoes when in the clinical skills lab.
- Semesters 5-7 must wear non-surgical scrubs in order to practice aseptic technique and to participate in cadaver labs.

### 1.12 *Isolation areas*

|   |                                     |           |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|--|
|  <b>ROSS UNIVERSITY</b><br><small>EST. 1978</small><br>SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE | <h2>Protective Clothing Policy</h2> | Issued    | 7 August 2010                          |
|   |                                     | Revised   | 22 December 2010                       |
|   |                                     | Authority | Dean for Faculty and Academic Programs |

- Proper isolation protocols must be followed as indicated in designated areas. Protective over-clothing will be provided in the ante rooms of these areas.

### 1.13 *Facilities*

- Safety glasses or face shields are to be worn any time work operations can cause foreign objects to get in the eye.
- Employees should wear closed-toed work shoes or boots with slip-resistant and puncture-resistant soles.
- Workers should wear the right gloves for the job (examples: heavy-duty rubber gloves for concrete work, welding gloves for welding, insulated gloves and sleeves when exposed to electrical hazards, disposable gloves when dealing with chemicals)
- Workers are required to wear hard hats where there is a potential for objects falling from above, bumps to the head from fixed objects, or of accidental head contact with electrical hazards
- Earplugs/earmuffs are to be worn in high noise areas where chainsaws or heavy equipment are used
- Housekeepers are required to wear aprons while performing their duties.

### 1.14 *Non-designated Areas*

- Individuals in other areas of campus should dress appropriately according to the guidelines set forth by the university. Individuals should take care to change into and out of their street clothing in appropriate areas according to the above policies.

Keywords: protective, clothing, apparel, lab wear, foot wear, shoes, scrubs, lab coat