Working Safely with Reptiles or Amphibians (e.g., snakes, iguana, turtles, and frogs)

This information is provided to assist you in understanding the potential occupational hazards when working with reptiles or amphibians and the need in some instances to take precautions to minimize the potential for animal-to-human zoonotic disease.

**Possible risks when working with reptiles or amphibians**
Reptiles and amphibians may harbor their own range of bacterial pathogens and parasites, such as *Salmonella* and *Cryptosporidium*.

Bites or scratches involving reptiles or amphibians or injuries from objects contaminated with body fluids require immediate first aid and medical attention.

**Recommended personnel protective equipment (PPE)**
Gloves and a laboratory coat (or other dedicated protective clothing such as a scrub suit) must be worn when working with reptiles or amphibians. Do not eat, drink, or apply cosmetics while working in an animal use area, and always wash your hands after handling reptiles or amphibians.

**Cleaning and sanitization recommendations**
Please contact LAMS Husbandry staff at (513) 558-5171.

Contact Environmental Health & Safety at (513) 556-4968 for any concerns or questions you have about working with dogs or any vertebrate animal and occupational risks. Help with training personnel in specific work practices to minimize risk can be obtained by contacting the LAMS Husbandry Staff at (513) 558-5171.