PURPOSE
To provide the highest quality of care for snakes housed in the Animal Care Services Facility in order to prevent the possible envenomation of a human care taker and to provide the best husbandry for the animals.

I. ANIMAL HEALTH MONITORING

A. All cages are locked. The Laboratory Animal Technician will observe the snakes without opening any cages. Any evidence of illness or a change in behavior will be recorded in the “Daily Observation Record” and reported to the ACS Manager and/or the Principle Investigator.

B. The Principle Investigators or Graduate Students will periodically observe animals and will provide all husbandry. A second person will always be present when cages are opened for feeding and care. Only people skilled at handling venomous snakes will be allowed to work with them.

C. If a bite occurs, call 9-911 immediately. The pharmacy at UMC has CroFab antivenin on hand. It is a polyvalent mixture effective for all New World American pit vipers.

D. Snakes are fed a minimum of once a month. Feces, shed skin, and uneaten food are removed as soon as possible.

E. Minimum and maximum temperature is periodically recorded on the room temperature chart. Room deficiencies are reported to the ACS Manager.

II. OCCUPIED ANIMAL ROOMS SANITATION

A. Floors are swept and mopped with disinfectant mixed according to manufacturer’s recommendations as needed.

B. Separate mops are provided in each room.

C. Cages are to be constructed of a material impervious to moisture.

D. Cages are sanitized as needed. (Animals will be placed in separate cages.)
III. HEALTH CARE

Everyone with access to the animal facility is responsible for informing the University Veterinarian when an animal becomes ill or a change in behavior is noted. Seriously ill animals should be reported **IMMEDIATELY** to the veterinarian. When an investigator, technician or animal care personnel requires veterinary assistance they should:

A. Complete the “Animal Observation Report” in the Notebook. Indicate date, room number, animal number/cage ID, problem observed and name or initials of the person making the report.

B. Contact the University Veterinarian or ACS Manager or PI:

1. Dr. Tiffanie Brooks, University Veterinarian, Animal Care Services.
   806-834-8588 Office
   806-239-2120 Cell Phone

2. Carla Grisham, Manager, Animal Care Services.
   806-834-3437 Office
   254-913-5156 Cell Phone

3. Lou Densmore, Professor/Chair, Biological Sciences
   742-2715 ext 223 office
   828-5787 home

C. Provide all the above information to the veterinarian and you will be advised and authorized on what action you should take.