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 and mail it to EH&S, EH&S will send it to the Occupational Medicine physician who 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. NOTE: The ARA is a key part of the Laboratory Animal Allergen Prevention Program.

**How do I get my results?**
The Occupational Medicine physician will evaluate your personal health risks of working with animals and will determine if you are cleared for animal work, or if further evaluation is recommended.

**What if I need further evaluation?**
If further evaluation is recommended, you will be seen by a physician with Keck Internal Medicine. At this evaluation, you and the internal medicine physician will discuss your potential health risks working with animals.

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

**Is my information safe?**
EH&S takes your privacy very seriously. Your completed forms are sent directly to Sharp Rees-Stealy (SRS), the Occupational Medicine Healthcare provider, where a licensed Occupational Medicine physician reviews your risk assessment. NOTE: Envelopes with ARA forms are not opened by EH&S staff members. USC/EH&S obtains confirmation of receipt from SRS for all employee forms.

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