

## AP-160 Medical, Biosecurity Policy

**Summary:** Animals at higher risk of infectious disease are common in our work, and in many cases, these animals are the most at-risk of losing their lives in shelters; the risk of disease should not limit lifesaving, but precautions must be taken to prevent the spread of disease. Biosecurity measures are imperative to promote and maintain the health of animals in Best Friends Lifesaving Centers and to prevent the transmission of disease between animals and to humans.

**Operational Policy:** Basic biosecurity measures are utilized for high-risk populations, with increased measures in place for isolation, quarantine, personal protective equipment, and sanitation when known disease is present in an individual or population.

### High-risk populations

High-risk populations should be handled with increased biosecurity measures, including personal protective equipment. Animals most susceptible to disease and that pose the greatest risk of being contagious to others are:

- Pediatric animals
- Animals recently arrived from traditional shelters
- Animals recently transported

### Isolation and Quarantine

- Definitions:
  - Isolation: Separation of animals showing signs of or that have been diagnosed with an infectious disease.
  - Quarantine: Separation of animals NOT showing any signs of disease for an observation period; they are monitored for development of clinical signs.
- Animals showing signs of infectious disease are isolated from the general population to prevent further transmission.
- Routine intake quarantines are not performed, as they increase length of stay and prolong the period of potential disease exposure in the shelter setting.
- An observation period may be indicated after a known exposure to an infectious disease, based on the animal's individual risk and the disease.

### Zoonotic disease risk

- Many diseases commonly found in animals are transmissible to humans.
- Best Friends staff take precautions to protect themselves and to educate fosters and volunteers on appropriate measures to prevent the spread of zoonotic disease.

### Related documents:

- AP-160-PR Medical, Biosecurity Protocol

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*Lifesaving Centers – All-Centers Operations Manual*

**Revision history:** Policy AP-000

Date:	Notes:	Lead Reviewers
Month & Year	Policy introduced	At least two or more lead reviewers required