

PROPER ETIQUETTE AND BEST PRACTICES IN THE HERP LAB

It is important that the lab is clean, neat and well-organized for inspections and other official visits to the collection. If the surfaces are clean, containers are well-labeled, and specimens are well-organized, then we won't be cited for having a dangerous lab. Also, you know that you aren't putting your hand in an unknown chemical.

Rules for etiquette and best practices in the Herp Lab:

1. You must receive official training in ethanol and formalin-use by the Staff Curator of Herpetology to work in the Herp Lab.
2. Do not dump any ethanol or formalin or other chemical (except hydrogen peroxide) down the sink. Dispose of these items in appropriately marked "USED" or "WASTE ETHANOL" or formalin containers. If you do not know what constitutes "waste" or "used" chemicals, see the Staff Curator. Only peroxide that we buy from the drug store can be dumped down the sink with water.
3. If you are preparing wet specimens in the hood: Label all jars of specimens with fluid type, your name, date (including year), AND specimens numbers and/or accession number if known. Do not leave specimens under the hood for years. Ask the Staff Curator where to put specimens after they have finished fixing.
4. Do not leave random items (e.g., Tupperware containers, bloody lids, snake bags, dirty rags, scissors, dirty glassware, dirty or clean packing materials or cheese cloth) lying around on counters or in the sink. Please clean any items you use and put them away after they dry. If there is too much glassware drying on the racks, put some of it away on the appropriately marked shelves in the lab, and then put your stuff to dry on the rack. Clean, dry cheese cloth can go into marked boxes near the back corner of the lab.
5. If you use ALL of the 70% and 95% ethanol on the counter, please refill these from the ethanol room for the next user. If you do not know how to refill, ask the Staff Curator or a trained curatorial assistant. If the giant drum of 95% ethanol in the ethanol room is almost empty, tell a Staff Curator as soon as possible so that another can be ordered before we run out.
6. Rinse funnels with water, and stack neatly on the metal counter after use. Wipe off counter after use of chemicals and rinse sponge in water.
7. Use the hood for handling formalin specimens. Leave formalin specimens in hood.
8. If you run out of glassware or lids, please restock these from the storage hallway.
9. If you are the last person to leave the lab, turn off the lights. This way specimens aren't sitting under the lights bleaching all the time.