

## Q&A Session

- Could you please share the slides with us? There are some wonderful ideas and I would really like to have the presentation for future reference. Thanks! :)

I will hopefully be able to and will let you know as soon as I hear back from my colleagues about the images I used.

- Is it possible to make the burrito technique with rats?

I answered this, but yes! Use a surgery towel or small drape. Here's a great short video link from

JOVE: <https://youtu.be/gSKy06ATzOo?si=yFz7lEorZwCzf1Rz>

- How safe is for the user/technician to hand the rabbits without gloves if, for example, IP are investigating some diseases on them (rabbits)?

I think this individual may have meant a disease such as rabies or other highly infectious agent. Here are some gloves that may work other than the heavy catch gloves which can limit dexterity. We used something similar when performing necropsies on NHPs. They work very well and allow for grasping: [https://shop.leicabiosystems.com/us/histology-consumables/ancillaries/pid-cut-resistant-gloves?srltid=AfmBOoqWHnMAcfb8uoBS9\\_bZq2hUyrMG5AuC71VDDD WV94bhvE13Q-l5](https://shop.leicabiosystems.com/us/histology-consumables/ancillaries/pid-cut-resistant-gloves?srltid=AfmBOoqWHnMAcfb8uoBS9_bZq2hUyrMG5AuC71VDDD WV94bhvE13Q-l5)

- Even if the webinar talks about rabbits, do you think there's a big difference between lab caring for rabbits and rats? enrichment, cages, handling, etc.

YES! I habituated rats long before working with rabbits. And, rats habituate to humans much easier (in my opinion). Younger rats, of course, become used to human touch and handling faster. But, I have habituated adults as well. Additionally, if a rat has an enriched environment, they are more likely to have a calmer demeanor.

- How to take care about psychology support for the technicians who work with animals in labs?

This is obviously the topic of compassion fatigue. It can be so very hard to do what we do. As I said, I have always done my best to know that I did everything I could to give my animals the best lives possible while they were with me. I also have always been a big promoter of communication - I always let my husbandry technicians know when large animal studies were ending, etc... However, working at safety and efficacy sites can be

much more difficult for people due to the numbers of animals that pass through the doors. I know I personally had a very hard time when I was in that environment. Just allow yourself to feel what you feel. There is no shame in caring. But, you have to do what you can to develop resistance and know when to seek help. It's a balancing act we all need to do in this field.

- Have you noticed a difference in temperament after handling without a scruffing technique? We don't scruff at my site however we only have 2 non study rabbits.

I believe I answered this one. Regardless, thankfully, no I have not. I scruffed just about all of my rabbits until I encountered animals with ports along the jugular area. These animals could not be scruffed, so they needed to be scooped. Honestly, I think it all depends upon how confident the holder is and how quickly they can go about it. If an individual takes too long to get a grip on a rabbit (scoop or scruff) the animal becomes anxious. So, it's all about confident handling and being able to manage anxiety on the part of the handler.

Please see compassion fatigue answer above. 😊