

### *About the OHHAI Program*

The Occupational Health at the Human-Animal Interface (OHHAI) program is a unique training component of the UW Northwest Center for Occupational Health and Safety (NWCOHS) that addresses an important need: the occupational health of animal workers. Animal workers interact with animals in a wide range of settings ranging from veterinary clinics to research laboratories, farms, markets, zoos, aquariums, and wildlife environments. They face unique and important health issues including exposure to zoonotic infectious diseases, allergens, and injury risks, yet traditionally have had limited access to preventive occupational health services.

### *OHHAI Trainees*

The OHHAI program will award stipends to up to 3 graduate students per year. The goal is to attract students with backgrounds in human health, animal health, and exposure sciences to form interdisciplinary teams. Students in the OHHAI program will also take part in Center-wide activities of the UW NWCOHS. The OHHAI trainees will be eligible for NWCOHS trainee travel and research supplies funds through the Director's Fund.

### *OHHAI Program Requirements*

OHHAI students will satisfy the requirements for a Departmental MPH in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences. As they choose courses, the OHHAI students will ensure that they take the following courses:

- ENV H 541 Ecology of Environmentally Transmitted Microbial Hazards OR
- ENV H 545 Water, Wastewater, and Health
- ENV H 543 Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment
- ENV 590 Current Issues in Occupational Health at the Human-Animal Interface Seminar (2 quarters per year).

Students in the OHHAI track will complete a practicum experience in the Occupational Health of Animal Workers. Practicum sites could include veterinary teaching hospitals, animal research laboratories, departments of agriculture, farmworker clinics, and wildlife health organizations.

### *OHHAI Research Project*

Students in the OHHAI training program will complete their thesis research on a topic related to the occupational health of animal workers. They will work closely with a mentor affiliated with the OHHAI program who will assist the student in application of research methodologies including literature review, hypothesis development and testing, data management, and preparation of scientific manuscripts.

