Informed Consent and Terms and Conditions of Participation  
For Students, Staff and Faculty Intending to Travel/Study at Mpala  

Health Concerns

By signing below, I hereby acknowledge that I may be exposed to potential health hazards in Kenya/Mpala that are uncommon in the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides a non-exhaustive list, which includes diseases such as yellow fever, hepatitis A, hepatitis B, typhoid, rabies, polio, and malaria (diseases for which vaccines or prophylactic medicines are available) and diseases such as schistosomiasis, plague, dengue, and others (for which vaccines are not readily available and precautions should be taken).

I acknowledge that I may be exposed to potential health hazards related to animals at Mpala. A non-exhaustive list includes anthrax, brucellosis, and Q fever. Q fever, in particular, has been identified in sheep at Mpala, but because this disease is sometimes transmitted by dust, it can occur in those who do not have close contact with the infected animals. In recent years, several cases of Q fever have occurred among visitors to Mpala.

I acknowledge that I have read the CDC fact sheet regarding Q fever, found at http://www.cdc.gov/qfever/. In particular, the CDC notes that “The three groups at highest risk for chronic Q fever are pregnant women, immunosuppressed persons and patients with a pre-existing heart valve defects.” I understand that since there are few effective precautions against Q fever, I should seriously weigh whether Mpala is an appropriate research setting for me, and if I may be in a higher-risk category, I should consult with my personal physician.

I understand that I am required to visit Princeton’s Health Services for a medical consultation prior to my departure for Mpala. Because of potentially serious complications resulting from Q fever, I am also required upon my return to Princeton to have a serological test for this illness, which UHS will provide to all students and employees of Princeton University at no cost. Testing should be done four weeks after returning to the United States. It is the responsibility of the individual to contact and consult with University Health Services to arrange for the test.
Because Q fever may be transmittable to other animals through exposure to contaminated soil and dust, all students and University employees who visit the Mpala ranch or conduct research in bomas or other areas frequented by domesticated animals are expected to note this on their customs form upon returning to the U.S.

__________________________                    ___________
Traveler's Signature                                        Date

_________________________
Traveler's Name Printed

For undergraduate student travelers:

__________________________                    ___________
Witness of Student's Signature                       Date

_________________________
Name of Witness Printed

By my signature below, I acknowledge that I have read the above document executed by my son or daughter and the attached fact sheet and understand the conditions they set forth.

__________________________                    ___________
Parent Signature                                             Date

_________________________
Parent Name Printed

As of 10/11/2012