

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES
NEWSLETTER

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Animal Care Services and Communicore

Here at Communicore, assisted greatly by WW Gay, Animal Care Services is in the final stage of the airflow-balancing project that has been going on for the better part of six months. There should be extremely minimal fallout whilst this process is completed, and after which time we will all be able to breathe deep again the smell of thoroughly conditioned air. This will also allow a more reliable room temperature throughout the basement facilities. In the animal rooms, ACS hopes to maintain a steady temperature for the animals with far less variance in airflow.

Over the past several weeks, the ACS staff has begun to do inspections in preparation for the forthcoming site visit by AAALAC-International, ACS' accrediting institution. Improvements and preventive care and maintenance will need to be done quickly and effectively. When your area is inspected, you may be asked several questions, and the supervisor of the area will be present. These preparations are of extreme importance, and everyone's assistance is appreciated.

The North American Veterinary Conference is the largest veterinary continuing education conference in the world. ACS, in conjunction with the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, provides support for the animal use workshops. The NAVC is a no-kill conference so the dogs and rabbits used are available for adoption. To adopt one of these animals, contact Ms. Sundstrum at 2-4700 x5719 or SundstrumD@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu. All animals eligible will be adopted in accordance with University policy.

Staff Recognitions

The following notes are taken from correspondence received to the Director:

"(Georgette Dee) has always been incredibly courteous and anxious to help our staff in any way possible. It is obvious that she genuinely cares about the health and well being of our research cats, and works diligently to ensure their welfare...she cares for these cats nearly every day, (so) she knows the animals well and is very attentive to changes in behavior or health problems that may occur... She pays close attention to details that may be overlooked and does not cut corners to save herself time. I believe that Georgette Dee is an important member of our team and I greatly appreciate her hard work and dedication."

"I am writing this letter to recognize and commend Georgette Dee for the outstanding job she has done caring for my research cats over the last few years...She has done an excellent job preparing and maintaining BARC...She seems eager to learn more about the research currently underway, although she rarely has time to discuss or observe our procedures...I am pleased that she has continued to work with my cats over the last few years...We feel that Georgette Dee performs an extraordinary job. I would therefore like to commend and express gratitude for her diligent work and enthusiasm."

Fabulous job, Dee!

Staff Announcements

- ❖ AALAS Certifications are on the rise, with a new crop of staff actively working toward their certifications. The most recently certified are, Georgette Dee, who got her LAT certification, Kristina Steinfeldt, who also became a certified Laboratory Animal Technician, and last but certainly not least, James "Danny" Johnson and Teri Woodham, who got their ALATs. This marks a 100% increase in certifications over the last three years. Congratulations to you all!
- ❖ Bernadette Zamora, DVM, PhD, has joined our team here at ACS from Manila, Republic of the Philippines. She got her Veterinary degree from University of the Philippines, and did further study at the Freie Universitaet, Berlin, Germany, and her residency in Laboratory Animal Medicine at UCLA, in California. Bernadette can be found in our Diagnostic Lab, or via email at bzamora@vpha.health.ufl.edu.
- ❖ Our own Kelly Flint has moved on from Florida, but swiftly taking over her duties is Charlie Mason, who hails from Connecticut, but joins us from the Public Sector, most recently stationed at the Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii.

Charlie can be found training staff and investigators, as well as writing policies and SOP's, and he may be reached at 846-2416, or via his email at camason@vpha.health.ufl.edu.

- ❖ Nikol Tschaepe joins the ACS team as the SPF Supervisor in the Communicore Facility and can be reached via email at Nikol@vpha.health.ufl.edu. You can make her acquaintance by stopping by the SPF hallway.
- ❖ The ACS Front Office has recently acquired the highly skilled Kathryn Jones, who comes to us from right here in Gainesville. She will be handling all animal orders, vendor contacts and arrangement of deliveries, so contact her at joneskat@vpha.health.ufl.edu, or 846-1748 with any questions.
- ❖ Another face in the office is Erica Borchgardt, who has been with ACS for quite some time but was recently made official. Erica is originally from Lancaster, Ohio, and she handles all cage cards, overcrowded cages and the subsequent actions taken. Her assistance can be obtained at borchgar@vpha.health.ufl.edu or at 846-0971.
- ❖ Speaking of recently being made official, let's all meet Rachel Hardee, originally from High Springs, Florida. She is in charge of collections for ACS, and she can be contacted via email at rhardee@vpha.health.ufl.edu, or at 392-0526.

Articles of Interest

There was a recent article published in the *Institute for Laboratory Animal Research Journal* that may prove to be of some interest to members of investigative staff. Published for October 12, 2004, **Animal Models and Experimental Design Considerations for Endocrine Disruptor Research and Testing**, Volume 45(4) of the ILAR Journal discusses the use of diverse animal models in endocrine disruptor research and testing, including invertebrates, birds, small fish, knockout mice, and rodents. The issue also highlights the many environmental factors that can confound endocrine disruptor research such as single or group housing, cage type, ventilation, environmental enrichment, and diet. The authors offer suggestions to assist researchers and laboratory animal facility staff in developing study parameters that incorporate macro- and micro-engineering controls. To access the full journal article, please refer to their website at www.national-academies.org/ilarjournal

Rat-bite fever (RBF) is a rare, systemic illness caused by infection with *Streptobacillus moniliformis*. RBF has a case-fatality rate of 7-10% among untreated patients. Human infection can result from a bite or scratch from an infected or colonized rat, handling of an infected rat, or ingestion of food or water contaminated with infected rat excreta. An abrupt onset of fever, myalgias, arthralgias, vomiting, and headache typically occurs within 2-10 days of exposure. Risk factors for RBF include handling rats at home and in the workplace (e.g., laboratories or pet stores). RBF is rare in the United States, with only a few cases documented each year, but because RBF is not a nationally notifiable disease, its actual incidence has not been well described. Disease prevention should center on risk reduction among persons with frequent rat exposure. Adherence to simple precautions while handling rats can reduce the risk for RBF and other potential rodent-borne zoonotic infections, wound infections, and injuries. Persons should wear gloves, practice regular hand washing and avoid hand-to-mouth contact when handling rats or cleaning rat cages. If bitten by a rat, persons should promptly clean and disinfect the wound, seek medical attention and report their exposure history. To view this article in its entirety, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5351a2.htm>.

Health and Safety Reminder

ACS policies are posted on the ACS website at <http://acs.ufl.edu>

Security clearance to animal facilities is dependent on submission and documentation of the following requirements. If questions remain, please contact Charlie Mason at 846-2416.

All research staff requesting access must complete a *FMACS087 Request for Access to Animal Facilities* form (ACS website or CB-160) and forward it to the ACS Front Office in CB-160. Access will be activated only when all training, Occupational Medicine, and administrative requirements have been met. Before access to ACS facilities and animal rooms is granted, first time animal users at the University of Florida must attend the Animal Awareness Seminar. An animal user must also be listed on an approved Animal Care and Use Protocol or an addendum. Users must be approved for enrollment in the Animal Contact Program as well. All staff requesting access to ACS facilities must attend a scheduled tour of the ACS with the facility supervisor or his/her designee. These tours are designed to familiarize research staff with the functional practices and procedures employed in specific areas. Additional training modules pertaining to IACUC functions, protocol development and approval processes, and modules specific to the species listed on the protocol are generally required prior to access as well.

Fees and Forms Update

To keep abreast of current fees, it is recommended that the ACS website be reviewed at <http://acs.ufl.edu>. With the endorsement of the Animal Care Council, there has been a change in fees associated with expired protocols transferring to ACS control. To avoid this administrative cost, please ensure that all protocols remain current by filing the appropriate paperwork before the expiration date. New fees are: \$100 per incident plus \$2 per cage card processed. The maximum

charge per incident is \$500, and this notification replaces the charges that took effect July 1, 2004, but this charge does not apply retroactively.

Investigators, without regard to who performs the animal movement, must submit an Animal Relocation request form to the ACS Front Office. This form is also applicable for animal movement to mouse return rooms CB-125 and CB-130.

MyACS: As many of you are aware, Animal Care Services is implementing a secure, online environment to conduct business with the intent to provide efficient, customer-friendly support by the department to the investigator, and to maintain information in a secure space that will not be available to outside eyes. This program has been in the works for quite some time now, the idea for which goes back several years. It is imperative that ACS receives feedback on how these systems are operating, to ensure their efficacy. To that end, we are requesting that all investigators (and their applicable fiscal staff and lab managers) register with myACS as soon as possible. As time goes on, more and more information will be accessible only by password, so please keep that in mind when considering the program. Forms will be placed under this protection beginning on February 15, 2005, and will be accessible to registered users, along with research protocol fiscal information.

To begin the integration, and to update our departmental records, at this time we are requesting the emergency contact information for each investigator and lab, per protocol. The information given by the investigator will be used in the event of an emergency, and will supercede the information currently on file with the department. **Please supply ACS with the most accurate and up-to-date information available, because if neither the investigator, nor their lab can be reached in the case of an animal emergency, the situation will be dealt with in the manner deemed most appropriate by the Attending Veterinarian or his designee.**

Please visit <https://my.acs.ufl.edu> for more information including scheduled training dates. As you begin to work with myACS, please let us know what you think and how we can make it better - email the webmaster at ehochman@ufl.edu.

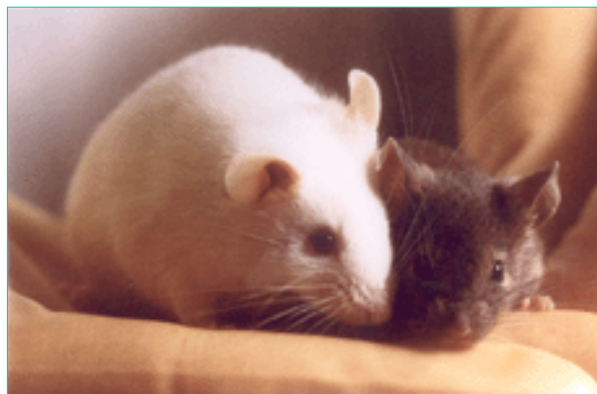
Animal Rights Report

The Demand Liberation Conference, Feb. 5-6, 2005 at the Reitz Union, UF went off remarkably well, with no apparent impact on research here at the University. All attendees peaceably demonstrated their First Amendment rights and went home at the end of the day. This meeting was co-sponsored by Animal Activists of Alachua (AAA) and the Student Animal Rights Alliance. The goal is to end animal exploitation, but the agenda included a variety of topics including building organizational skills, public speaking and working with the media.

Services Update

Assisted Reproductive Technologies at Charles River Laboratories

Charles River Laboratories offers a comprehensive fertility evaluation that aids in identifying the cause of poor reproductive performance. If rescue services are deemed necessary, Charles River offers several options such as in vitro fertilization (IVF), ovarian transplantation, artificial insemination, and intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI). Please check the link below to learn more about Charles River Laboratories' assisted reproductive technologies. <http://www.criver.com/transgenics>



Animal Care Services (ACS) publishes this newsletter to communicate with those who use or provide support to the animal care program at the University of Florida. This newsletter contains various items of importance to animal users. We use e-mail as our primary method of distributing the newsletter, but also have copies available in the animal facilities. Please print this newsletter and distribute it to members of your department. If you did not receive this newsletter by email and would like to be added to the email list, please send an email message to cwasner@vpha.health.ufl.edu with "Add to ACS Newsletter" as the subject. This and all past issues of the newsletter can be accessed at <http://acs.ufl.edu/newsletter.shtml>.