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UNIVERSITY OF  
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# ANIMAL CARE SERVICES **NEWSLETTER**

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Animal Care Services (ACS) and the office of the Attending Veterinarian publishes, every other month, a newsletter to communicate with those who use or provide support to the animal care program at the University of Florida. This newsletter contains new policies, new services provided, updates on animal facility improvements, updates on federal regulations, policies and other items of importance to animal users. We use email as our primary method of distributing the newsletter and also have copies of the newsletter 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 [morrisb@vpha.health.ufl.edu](mailto:morrisb@vpha.health.ufl.edu) with "add to ACS newsletter" under subject. All issues will be maintained on our website.

## **Mission Statement**

ACS has adopted a new mission statement to promote dedicated, ethical and high quality animal care among its staff. This statement will be displayed in each of the ACS facilities as a daily reminder of the moral and regulatory commitment each employee is responsible for with respect to animal use and care. The statement follows:

**"It is the mission of Animal Care Services to provide a humane and high quality animal care and use program to facilitate research and teaching at the University of Florida. Proper care and use, with emphasis on the avoidance or minimization of discomfort, distress and pain, are essentials in our mission. Our goal is to offer high quality service, expertise and guidance in all matters related to the care and use of animals."**

## **ACS Faculty Advisory Committee**

The newly formed ACS Faculty Advisory Committee meets monthly. The committee is chaired by Dr. Battles with Dr. Ian Phillips serving as an ex-officio member of the committee. Committee members currently include: Drs. Raymond Bergeron, Medicinal Chemistry; Michael Clare-Salzler, Pathology; William Dawson, Ophthalmology; Stephen Roberts, Physiological Sciences; Edward Scott, Cancer Center; Eric Sobel, Medicine; Charles Wood, Physiology; Janet Yamamoto, Pathobiology, and Mr. Gregory Tyler, Cancer Center. The committee is kept abreast of current issues and provides input on program modifications.

## **Need Help With Your IACUC Proposal?**

The ACS veterinarians, as designees of the Attending Veterinarian, now review all ACUP's prior to submission of protocols to the IACUC primary and secondary reviewers. During this pre-review, the ACS veterinarians review the protocol for adequate veterinary care and advise the investigator on the availability of programs and facilities to support the investigator's research program. The ACS veterinarians can also provide advice on the animal model selected and provide suggestions to facilitate a timely review of the ACUP. Investigators may be asked to meet with the ACS veterinarians to clarify "significant" issues in the ACUP. This is especially important for new animal research programs or where there is the potential for the animals used in the protocol to experience pain or distress. These

meetings also provide an opportunity for the ACS veterinarians to discuss issues that are important for appropriate veterinary and husbandry support after the research program is implemented.

## Policy Changes/Clarifications

### Animal Ordering Policy

ACS staff members are responsible for placing **ALL** animal orders for principal investigators (PI's). Orders will be placed with approved vendors only as listed on the website (<http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~iacuc/vendors.htm>).

Animal orders received by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday are placed Thursday morning for delivery the following week. Late order requests will be placed with the next week's orders. A late order processing fee of \$25.00 will be charged for orders placed after 5:00 p.m. Wednesday for delivery the following week.

Animals from non-approved vendors may require quarantining. You will be informed of this prior to processing the order. Unauthorized animals will be rejected upon arrival.

### Quarantine of Rodents from Non-Approved Vendors

Our goal is to eliminate all rodent pathogens on this campus. A primary source of rodent pathogens is the introduction of rodents from colonies that harbor pathogens. Preventing the introduction of infected rodents is a critical step in reducing or eliminating infected colonies. We are now requiring that rodents coming from a non-approved vendor undergo a six-week quarantine. Please call one of the ACS veterinarians for additional information on quarantine procedures.

### Transportation Policy

Animals arriving from vendor shipments will be delivered to their housing site on the same day free of charge. Housed animals may be relocated only after approval by an ACS veterinarian. This includes movement from room to room as well as movement from facility to facility. Animal movements requiring a truck and driver must be scheduled two working days in advance. The truck will move animals on Tuesdays and Fridays only. Fees for scheduled deliveries by truck are as follow:

	<u>Fee</u>
• Between Health Science Center buildings (Communicore, Brain Institute, VMTH, ARF, 34 <sup>th</sup> St. Farm & VA Hospital)	\$10.00
• To or from other buildings on campus	\$25.00
• To or from Progress Center	\$50.00

Deliveries on other days or with insufficient notification will result in higher charges.

## New Surgical Services and Updates

Dr. Marcel Perret-Gentil's (ACS Associate Director) training and expertise in experimental surgery brings a new asset to the research program. He also brings special skills in the area of minimally invasive surgery (MIS), in particular in laparoscopy and thoracoscopy. We encourage PI's to utilize his expertise, either as consultant and/or during the development of surgical protocols. The advantages of MIS include decreased surgical trauma, decreased post-operative pain, reduced recovery period, decreased immune suppression and consequently better data yield.

The surgical suites renovation is underway. Although completion of the entire project is not expected until June, PI's are encouraged to utilize the ACS surgical facilities.

**Note:** Special thanks to Sharon Bauer for designing our newsletter.