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UNIVERSITY OF
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ANIMAL CARE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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Volume 2, Issue 2

April 2002

New ACS Website

ACS has a new website, <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/>. This website will be updated on a regular basis and contains information on animal orders, emergency contacts, copies of the bi-monthly newsletter, links to key sites, fees, and other important information for PIs. Please use this website when placing animal orders and not the IACUC's website.

Messages from the Director

AAALAC International Site Visit

The Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International will conduct a site visit between July 9-12, 2002 at the University of Florida Health Science Center to review the animal care program and facilities. Accreditation by AAALAC International demonstrates to funding and regulatory agencies, and the general public, the University's commitment to quality animal care and use. Failure of the University to maintain accreditation will negatively impact research funding and recruitment of research faculty. It is important to recognize that the site visitors will, in addition to the central animal facilities, visit investigator's laboratories where animals are used. Investigators and their staff should be prepared to respond appropriately to questions asked by the visitors. It is extremely important that all members of the staff are familiar with their currently approved Animal Care and Use Protocols. If you have concerns about issues in your laboratory, do not hesitate to call one of the ACS veterinarians or myself.

Renovations and Equipment Improvements

Currently, the ACS is actively working on several projects to improve the quality of the program. Renovations of the Experimental Surgical Suite in the ACS are over 50% completed. Renovations include upgrades and repairs of all surfaces, improvements in electrical support, and structural changes. We expect to complete these renovations prior to July 1, 2002. We have a contract for 44 new ventilated racks to house mice. The first shipment of the racks will arrive around May 10, 2002. We have received several new laminar flow cabinets that will be used with the ventilated racks. We have ordered a new rack washer and tunnel washer, and expect to have the installation and renovations of the cage wash facility in the JHMHC Communicore animal facility completed before September 1, 2002. Improvements in the ventilation, environmental monitoring, etc. should be completed before July 1, 2002. We have completed repairs to the surfaces of the Infectious Disease Unit. We are in the process of developing a new animal facility site located off of Richey Road. The first building will be completed and in operation prior to December 1, 2002. The facilities will be used to house a variety of species and will significantly expand our housing capacity.

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 e-mail 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 with "add to ACS newsletter" under subject. All issues will be maintained on our website.

Introductions

Mr. Mike Riley, BS, CVT, LATG (Assistant Director for Research Programs and Services) has recently joined us from Northwestern University. Mike's primary job is to manage and improve the husbandry activities across campus. Mike is a welcome addition to the program and with his experience and training he will make a difference. He has 26 years of experience in Veterinary Medicine and Research; 20 years serving in the Army and 5.5 years with Northwestern.

Mrs. Kelly J. Flint, BS, has joined ACS from Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Kelly will be the Coordinator of Health and Safety, dealing with animal safety, security, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). She has 4 years experience in the field of clinical trials and 15 years training in the care of animals.

Mr. Greg Marwede joins ACS following a 22-year career with the Division of Human Resources at the University of Florida. His HR background includes experience in recruitment, payroll/personnel processing, records, classification, training and labor relations. He received his BA in Political Science from Northeastern University and saw active military service in the Vietnam conflict, attaining the rank of Captain.

IACUC Protocol Submission Process

All protocols should be submitted via e-mail to yconsult@grove.ufl.edu. After submission, ACS veterinarians will review the protocol. If there is a need to contact the PI, ACS will initiate the contact. Otherwise, the protocol is submitted to the IACUC for member consideration. A veterinarian will e-mail you to inform you that your protocol was submitted to the IACUC. After you receive this e-mail, the IACUC office becomes your point of contact.

Protocols submitted by Thursday will be reviewed at the next Wednesday's ACS Veterinary review meeting. Protocols submitted after Thursday will be reviewed at the following Wednesday meeting. To avoid unnecessary delays, please, be sure to use the most current IACUC protocol format, which is kept current in the IACUC website (<http://nersp.nerdc.ufl.edu/~iacuc/>).

Update from the National Association for Biomedical Research

To commemorate "World Week for Animals in Laboratories," being held April 20-28, animal rights activists are planning protests, demonstrations and other activities around the country. Details on planned events can be found at the following Websites: <http://www.vivisectioninfo.org/wwail2002.html>; <http://www.ardac.org>; http://www.october29.org/shacusa/news_wwail.htm; and <http://www.all-creatures.org/wlalw/index.html>.

Non-human Primate Workshop

Dr. Harvey Ramirez will conduct a non-human primate handling workshop May 14th from 9:00 – 12:00 (location to be determined). Please, contact Pam Humphrey at 846-1383 to register for the workshop. The workshop will cover topics such as non-human primate biology and husbandry, regulations and safety, environmental enrichment, zoonosis, and handling and restraint.

Animal Contact Medical Monitoring Program

The university's animal contact medical monitoring program is a PHS requirement, which was adapted as a result of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) accreditation review. This program is available to any person who has contact with animals at the University of Florida. The program has mandatory and non-mandatory components, depending on the animal species, protocol, biohazard level and degree of contact.

The PI is responsible to make his/her research staff aware of this program. If you are not enrolled in this program and you would like more information, please go to <http://www.ehs.ufl.edu/bio/Animal/acweb.htm> or contact the Occupational Medicine department of Environmental Health and Safety at 392-1591.

Although not fully implemented yet, ACS will soon begin limiting access to the animal facilities to those who are enrolled in the Animal Contact Medical Monitoring Program.

New Policies

Mouse/Rat Antibody Production (MAP/RAP)

Using Biologic Materials? Contaminated biological materials can be stored frozen without loss of pathogenic activity, and can be hazardous to humans or laboratory animals even after many years. Many murine viruses like minute virus of mice, lymphocytic choriomeningitis virus, hantavirus, K virus, mouse encephalomyelitis virus, mouse hepatitis virus, polyoma virus, Kilham rat virus, Toolan's H-1 virus, and mouse adenovirus have been isolated from contaminated biological materials and tumors.

ACS now requires MAP/RAP on all biological materials intended to be inoculated in rodents, unless certified "clean" as listed in the ACS Pathogen Exclusion List. This list can be found in the new ACS website (<http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/>). Our goal is to maintain our rodent colonies free from excluded pathogens. The use of biological materials infected with pathogenic organisms will not be permitted. Please contact ACS Vet services for detailed information if you use or plan to use biological materials.

Policy Changes/Clarifications

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.

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 ACS website (<http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/>).

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.

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. Animals will be moved on Tuesdays and Fridays only. Fees for deliveries can be found in the ACS website. Deliveries on other days or with insufficient notification will result in higher charges.