

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES
NEWSLETTER

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April 2005

Animal Care Services and Communicore

Animal Care Services is removing and replacing a large number of sinks throughout rooms in the Communicore facility. To start with, the smaller, stainless steel sinks will be going into the SPF and large animal areas. Painting is also going on for AAALAC preparations throughout the facility.

Testing and balancing for the airflow in Communicore has now been completed. The new air handlers are proving to be a great improvement with the regulation of room temperatures, and although this does not resolve all current issues with air within the facility, it dramatically improves the stability of airflow.

Staff Recognitions

Congratulations to the most recent additions to the AALAS-certified group – Deborah Dalziel and Rachelle Wright! Deb is our loading dock manager and Rachelle is our Large Animal Supervisor, and both are now certified at the LATG level.

Staff Announcements

- ❖ Ryan Fiske has joined the ACS Team as the new Colony Manager for the isolator breeding program from the Novartis Institutes of Biomedical Research. He did his undergraduate work at UMass and has specialized training in genetics, embryo handling, cryopreservation and pronuclear microinjection from Jackson Laboratories, Charles River Laboratories and the University of Michigan. He can be reached at Progress Park, telephone 386-418-1681.
- ❖ In March, Animal Care Services welcomed the departments of Psychology and Zoology animal facilities in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the team. Sherry Scruggs is the Coordinator of these new facilities, and is leading the formerly-CLAS facilities in integrating themselves into the ACS style of care. As always, quality will not be sacrificed in the transition, which is certain to assuage the trepidation that such assimilation might cause. ACS policies will be in effect as soon as possible, including the use of cage cards, the presence of sentinels and regular testing to ensure sanitation.

Animal Care Services is committed to work with all of its investigators in the continuance of their research, regardless of the methods and changes that must be made to that end. The changes that are beginning in these facilities are designed to mimic as much as possible the standard of the department while maintaining the specific requirements that a particular type of study needs.

Health and Safety Reminder

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

Security clearance to animal facilities may be revoked if the requirements or procedures for facility access are not fulfilled at any time. If this occurs, access will be immediately revoked or denied. The Principal Investigator will receive a *FMACS088 Denial of Access to Animal Facilities* Form outlining which requirements were not satisfied and by which employee. Should access be revoked or denied, clearance will not be restored until the entire process is completed, beginning with submission of the *FMACS087Request for Access to Animal Facilities* Form.

Forms Update

The following form, available through the ACS Front Office, will be in addition to the purple *Special Care by PI* cards that are already in use to indicate that the applicable PI will care for the animals. This door sheet will give more exact information to supplement the purple cards. Both sides are to be filled out, and investigators and their staff are requested to read the document fully, as there is information and instruction that does not appear of the purple cards.

**Special Care by PI
Monthly Summary
Animal Care Services**

In the table below:

- Use this form when subjecting animals to the 'PI special care' items for more than one day.
- Everyday, including weekends and holidays, initial the 'PI special care items' and 'Animal health check' accordingly.
- For investigators providing rodents water, the animal's regular water source is generally RO water, *not* tap water. When placing compounds in the animal's drinking water, investigators are encouraged to use ACS' RO water, as palatability of other water sources/types will vary.
- Additional 'Monthly Summary' sheets, if needed, can be obtained from CB.160.
- The animals are expected to return to their default husbandry state (e.g., animals fed, water bottles filled with RO water, and/or cages changed) when 'Special care by PI' is finished.
- Please contact a veterinary staff member regarding any animal appearing in poor health or dying as an unexpected consequence of the IACUC approved protocol.
- When an animal is labeled as 'PI will feed' and 'PI will water,' it is the investigator's responsibility to ensure the animals are fed and/or watered by 3PM local time each day, unless other arrangements are made with the ACS facility manager or their designee. Failure for the animals to be fed in a timely manner will result in the animals being fed the standard rodent chow and/or watered with the standard RO water. If there are other extenuating circumstances (e.g., hurricane) where an individual is unable to attend to their animals in a timely manner, please contact the ACS facility manager or their designee to make any necessary arrangements; contact information is available on the ACS website <http://www.acs.ufl.edu/>.
- Change cages least every 2 weeks, more frequently if needed.

The 'PI special care items' checked on the following page are approved by the IACUC:

Yes No

- If Yes, please indicate the IACUC approved protocol number: _____
- Protocol expiration date: _____

Individual requesting special care:

Name:	_____
Phone:	_____
Cell Phone/Pager:	_____
E-mail:	_____
Signature:	_____

* It is the investigator's responsibility to ensure the animals are fed and/or watered by 3PM local time each day
 ** It is the investigator's responsibility to ensure all animals are observed daily, including weekends and holidays. Please contact a veterinary staff member regarding any animal appearing in poor health or dying as an unexpected consequence of the IACUC approved protocol.

**Special Care by PI
Monthly Summary
Animal Care Services**

The principal investigator is responsible for the health checks and special care items:

Room: _____ Rack: _____ A B

Day: Month:	▼ PI special care items ▼						Day: Month:	▼ PI special care items ▼					
	<input type="checkbox"/> No food	<input type="checkbox"/> PI will feed	<input type="checkbox"/> No water	<input type="checkbox"/> PI will water	<input type="checkbox"/> PI will change cage	Animal health check**		<input type="checkbox"/> No food	<input type="checkbox"/> PI will feed*	<input type="checkbox"/> No water	<input type="checkbox"/> PI will water	<input type="checkbox"/> PI will change cage	Animal health check**
1							17						
2							18						
3							19						
4							20						
5							21						
6							22						
7							23						
8							24						
9							25						
10							26						
11							27						
12							28						
13							29						
14							30						
15							31						
16													

ACS resumes care: Su M T W R F Sa Never Date: (MM/DD/YY) Time: AM / PM

Important notes:

* It is the investigator's responsibility to ensure the animals are fed and/or watered by 3PM local time each day
 ** It is the investigator's responsibility to ensure all animals are observed daily, including weekends and holidays. Please contact a veterinary staff member regarding any animal appearing in poor health or dying as an unexpected consequence of the IACUC approved protocol.

New Equipment

Animal Care Services has recently acquired a new euthanasia system, the Euthanex Single Tank System. This system allows for a quicker, more efficient administration of CO₂ doses, permitting mice and rats to be euthanized in 45 seconds to one minute in their own cage. This also eliminates a need to clean further caging, thereby reducing energy expenditure in cage wash as well. The low-pressure regulator allows for accurate control of gas flow, they are constructed of stainless steel and are autoclavable for use in Infectious Disease areas or where required. These systems will be available beginning in May and instructions for use will be posted directly on the system. Please contact the facility supervisor to set up an appointment for use.

Policy Update

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

Currently the ACS rack rate policy states that, provided that the Principal Investigator is the same for all projects, multiple protocols may house animals on the same rack. This policy also maintains that single-rate cages cannot be transferred to a rack unless the cage card is changed, a task that can be requested in the ACS Front Office. Failure to adhere to this policy may jeopardize the investigator's rack rate privileges.

In recent months, Animal Care Services has submitted a large number of invoices to investigators, and significant progress has been made in responding to problems and invoice errors. Regrettably, when invoices are returned due to either insufficient funds or budget errors, this causes a large financial strain to be placed on ACS, which has already rendered the services in question. Animal Care Services cannot afford to continue to operate in this manner, but in an effort to focus costs only on those who are delinquent in their payments, a new ACS policy and subsequent charge will be instituted beginning with the July 2005 invoices. These charges, which are completely avoidable, will only recover costs. This policy is available online at www.acs.ufl.edu.

ACS has also received various requests from lab and fiscal managers to register for myACS. Unfortunately, research PIs must add support personnel in the system themselves, as this process provides ACS with authority to share the PI's myACS research information with others, and express permission (by the PI) is required.

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>.