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UNIVERSITY OF
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ANIMAL CARE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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Policies

ACS policies are located on the web at <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs>.

Animal Care Issues and Concerns

New Pentobarbital Euthanasia Dose

There have been some questions regarding the recommended pentobarbital euthanasia dose of ≥ 100 mg/kg. Some cases where 100 mg/kg has been used, may not actually euthanize the animal, but rather induce deep anesthesia with potential recovery. Therefore, the new pentobarbital euthanasia dose is ≥ 150 mg/kg in all species. Investigators should reflect this change in all new protocol submissions.

Post-op Care

It has been recently reported that rats were returned to the ACS housing room while not yet recovered from anesthesia. Post-op animals must be continuously monitored until they are sufficiently recovered from anesthesia. Animals are considered sufficiently recovered once they have a righting response (righting reflex). The righting response tests the animal's ability to right itself to sternal recumbency from lateral or dorsal recumbency.

New Per Diem Rates

Animal Care Services has completed the preparation of its annual budget. The majority of the operating expenses are paid for through per diems and other services. It is necessary to adjust the per diems to meet increased operating costs and anticipated reductions in state support. Animal Care Services continues to need a significant number of improvements in program, facilities, equipment, and staff. Changes in per diem rates were reviewed and endorsed by the Animal Care Advisory Council and the Faculty Advisory Committee. To balance the budget for ACS, it is necessary that we increase the per diems by 4%, with the exception of conventional rats (8 % increase), mouse cages (6% increase) and the rat single rate (6% increase). We have also added a per diem rate for cats with kittens. Fees for other services have been adjusted to meet associated costs. Please review the fee schedule posted on the ACS web site (<http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/>).

The Faculty Advisory Committee recommended that the per diems for conventional mice be increased more than the SPF mice to generate revenue to support the quarantining of mice that have been rederived. The additional increase will be used to help pay for the six week quarantine of the first 16 rederivations conducted between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2003. It was necessary to increase the per diem rate for conventional rats to reflect the costs. The rate for rats was previously less than the rate for conventional mice. We have been gradually changing this over the last two years.

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 tmkegley@vpha.health.ufl.edu with "add to ACS newsletter" under subject. This and all past issues of the newsletter can be accessed at <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/subnewsanns.htm>.

Please note that these fees are not for animals housed under GLP standards or for services provided under GLP standards. The fees for these projects will be quoted on each GLP study.

We look forward to another productive year while we continue making improvements in our facilities and program over the next year. We welcome your comments and encourage you to meet with us to discuss your animal care needs.

New SPF Experimental Room

The new SPF experimental room is now ready for occupancy. This is an animal room (CB-101) intended to house rodents that have been removed from the SPF barrier for procedures, experimentation, etc, but require continued SPF housing. These rodents cannot be returned to the SPF barrier since two-way traffic drastically increases the risk of introducing a pathogen into the SPF barrier. Please note that procedures done on animals in the SPF barrier procedure rooms (CB-64 and CB-71) do not preclude those animals from returning to their rooms within the barrier.

CB-101 is located in the hallway across from the ACS administrative area. The room has a changing station and static shelving unit for cages. The following procedure is to be followed when using the room:

1. Place animal(s) in a clean cage in SPF prior to doing the experiment/procedure (prior to being taken out of the SPF barrier).
2. Once the experiment/procedure is completed, return the cage to CB-101, spray the cage with chlorine dioxide and place a water bottle on it.
3. Place the cage on the rack.

Static micro-isolator caging will be used in CB-101 and thus cages will be changed twice per week. All procedures for husbandry and animal handling will be like those in the SPF barrier. However, both rats and mice will be housed in the room if needed. This is permissible under federal animal care guidelines because both species are housed in micro-isolator caging. The PPE requirements will be posted on the door as it is in other animal rooms. This room is being set up in response to several documented cases of animals being reintroduced into the SPF barrier contrary to the well-known rules. This behavior jeopardizes all animals in the SPF barrier and is not acceptable.

Animal Use Protocols & ACS Veterinary Consultations

Effective October 3, 2002, Animal Care Services assumed administrative control over the protocol consultation process. All protocols are sent to vconsult@grove.ufl.edu. From there, ACS begins the consultation process and tracks each protocol from the day it is e-mailed to vconsult to the day it is submitted to IACUC. The average consultation review time since October 3, 2002 has been 14 days. Some protocols take longer than usual because they require additional attention or outside consultation review.

Please expect some delays in the consultation process since ACS is down 1.5 FTE veterinarians. We encourage investigators to send their protocols to vconsult early enough to avoid being faced with short deadlines in their grant submission process.

American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine Position Statement on Animal Experimentation

Laboratory animal veterinarians play a vital role in the conduct and oversight of research utilizing animals. Their training and experience makes them uniquely qualified to diagnose and treat conditions in animals that affect their health and well-being. As an organization comprised of veterinary professionals skilled in the health care of laboratory animals, the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) believes that it is important to clearly state our position on the use of animals in research and the methods of oversight used to assure public accountability.

The American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine:

- Supports the need for humane biomedical research involving animals;
- Believes humane experimentation involving animals is necessary to provide knowledge vital to preserve and improve health and quality of life for man and animals;
- Recognizes that the use of animals in research, teaching and testing is a privilege;

- Supports regulation of the care and use of animals used, or intended for use, in experimentation that is based on science and allows application of professional judgment and performance standards, when such regulations are uniformly and fairly enforced;
- Supports the use of professional judgment for providing veterinary care in the treatment and prevention of spontaneous and research-related medical conditions in research animals;
- Opposes legislation and regulation that adds to the burden of using animals in research without providing benefit to the animal; and
- Condemns the use of harassment, intimidation, violence, and other activities undertaken for the purpose of thwarting the research community and the life-saving work to which it is dedicated.

Staff Announcements

Personnel Changes

Dr. Sunder Shrestha has accepted a faculty position at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and will be leaving at the end of June. He came to the University of Florida in 1996 for his post-doc. In 1997, he entered the Comparative Medicine residency program and in 2000 he joined ACS as Clinical Assistant Professor and Clinical Veterinarian. He faithfully served ACS and the UF scientific community and we all wish him well in his new endeavors.

Dr. Harvey Ramirez has assumed responsibility for all animal clinical care, which includes large animals as well as rodents.

Beginning July 1st, Dr. Marcel Perret-Gentil's ACS duties/title will change from "Assistant Director of Veterinary Programs" to "Assistant Director of Research, Surgical and Training Programs." He will be serving ACS on a 0.5 FTE capacity. The balance of his responsibilities will be in support of the Powell Gene Therapy Center, Department of Pediatrics, and other research activities. Investigators needing support for research services and/or surgical support may contact Dr. Perret-Gentil at 392-0672, mperret@ufl.edu.

We will start the interview process July 1st for a new Clinical Veterinarian and for an Assistant Director of Veterinary Programs.

Clem Lindsey will retire from UF on June 30, 2003, following many years of dedicated service. All of us in ACS wish him many great years of retirement with family and friends. We invite you to join us in wishing him well at the Founder's Gallery, June 30 from 2:00 – 4:00.

Recognitions

The following ACS employees were recognized for their years of service at UF:

- Five years – Susan Jackson, Warren Tanton, James Williams, Sandy Williams.
- Ten years – Kenny Atkins.
- Fifteen years – Alison Edwards.
- Twenty five years – Roberto Luchetta and Kenny Nelson.
- Forty Years – Clem Lindsey.

This is what others are saying about ACS Staff...

Kenny Nelson

"Kenny Nelson deserves to be recognized, in my opinion, because he is one of the most gracious, helpful, communicative, and industrious individuals I have encountered at UF since I moved here. His consistent "up-beat" personality makes him a joy to see and talk to every day he stops by to bring clean cages and take care of our experimental animals. My lab group and I consider him very highly and we wanted you to be aware of this..."

Dr. Harvey Ramirez

"I would like to thank you for selecting Dr. Harvey Ramirez to review our IACUC protocol 3207 as ACS veterinary reviewer. He has helped make our protocol more "user friendly" to the IACUC reviewers and this

protocol has recently been approved with least conflict from IACUC... I believe that Harvey's help was perhaps the key to the success of this protocol. I commend Dr. Ramirez for his patience, eagerness to share knowledge, and professional conduct which is now rarer in young individuals. I hope you can hire and retain more Clinical Veterinarian of his dedication, personality, and care for the animal..."

Dr. Marcel Perret-Gentil

"It is my pleasure to tell you that you have a wonderful staff in your department. We have been very satisfied with Dr. Perret-Gentil's work since we started collaboration with him last year. His experience and knowledge in animal research is so valuable and helpful to our study. He helped us design the study protocol, and worked with us on the budget. He is always so patient and tries to understand our need. His surgical technique is impressive. We are very pleased with the quality of the work he has done for us. Currently we are doing our second project with him. We anticipate to continue our work with him. Dr. Perret-Gentil is truly a model for a successful industrial collaboration for the University..."

Kristina Steinfeldt and Dr Sunder Shrestha

"I am pleased to recognize your successful efforts in the recapture of loose primates at the 34th street Farm on Saturday, June 7, 2003 at 11:30 PM. Even though you had finished your scheduled work for Saturday, you responded to our call for assistance in a timely manner and due to your efforts these loose animals were captured and returned to their proper location without injury to them or ACS staff. Your concern for the animals and your immediate response to assist in their recapture reflects highly on your dedication to their welfare and the division of Animal Care Services. Please know that your actions as described above represent exemplary performance and demonstrate the level of professionalism and concern for animal welfare that is very much appreciated by Animal Care Services and our research clients. Thank you again for a job well done!"

Miscellaneous

Online Tutorials Glitch

Some users have been experiencing problems in enrolling for the online tutorial and examinations. After reviewing the problems, it was found that one of the three steps is not being completed (i.e. the enrollment process). After clicking on training, when you see ACS, click on the enroll button and submit, or else you will be unable to take the quiz.

ACS Facility Access

If you have not yet come down to ACS to obtain access to the Communicore animal facilities, please call the main office (392-2977) to arrange for access. Instructions on what is needed to obtain access is described in the April 2003 ACS Newsletter (<http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/news/Newsletter%2004-03.pdf> or <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/news/Newsletter%2004-03.doc>).

Rental Cost of Using Animal Care Services Van

Investigators who wish to transport animals to and from off-campus locations may now do so, allowing for substantial savings over using private carriers. Up to now, there has been no set rate on what to charge for the rental of this vehicle. The new rental rate for the use of the van will be \$40.00 per day and 30 ¢ per mile. This cost will cover upkeep of the vehicle as well as the labor involved in sanitizing the vehicle once it is returned.

Animal Care Services still continues to provide transportation of animals to various UF campus locations as described in the ACS website <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/>.