

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES
NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 2

June 2004

Communicore Update

The Communicore air handler replacement has recently been completed. Our new supply fans have been designed so that any shut downs due to repairs or maintenance will not have any noticeable effect on the air in the holding rooms. The next step in improving the temperature and air quality within the facility will be to balance the supply and exhaust fans. Currently underway, this will take a few weeks but when complete we hope to increase airflow to as many rooms as possible.

Staff Announcements

- ❖ One of our staffmembers, Ms. Sherry Scruggs, was recently certified as a Canine HRD (land) Coordinator. This means that she can now test dogs to detect human remains on land for the National Association for Search and Rescue. This follows her appointment one year ago for certifying dogs in Wilderness Live Search and Tracking/Trailing. Sherry has been active in Canine Search and Rescue for over ten years now, and this honor is appointed to fewer than twenty other people in the country. Her work has included homicide casework, drownings and tornadoes, as well as searching for Alzheimer's patients and lost children. Sherry has also become a member of the newly-formed Central Florida Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 8, to apply her skills in disaster situations.

Staff Recognitions

A letter was received to the Office of the Director from an Investigator, remarking on a staffmember's diligence and excellence on the job.

"When retrieving a rat for an experiment, I briefly observed James (Danny) Johnson, a husbandry technician, at work. He was changing rat cages under the hood. Many people performing similar tasks appear hobbled by their training...Not Mr. Johnson. He deftly and correctly performed all of the required procedures, with the skill and precision of a concert pianist on stage...Every motion served a purpose, and every purpose was served. I am confident that Mr. Johnson services a large number of cages, with work that far exceeds the quality standards required to derive a benefit from the caging systems in the Brain Institute building."

An unsolicited letter from a member of investigative staff was received, which centered on another employee's activity whilst on the job:

"I am writing to you now to again express my satisfaction with Ms. Jennifer Johnson's work. As laboratory manager for Dr. Richard Moyer for the past 9 months, I have been interacting with Animal Care Services (ACS) for several issues including fiscal matters. In dealing with fiscal issues, over the past several months I have had the pleasure of working with Ms. Johnson. She has always been extremely helpful and very responsive to our laboratory's needs. She appears organized, she has a positive attitude, and I believe she is an asset to ACS and the entire Health Science Center."

Teamwork and having a great attitude are the overriding themes in this letter from a supervisor.

"I write this letter to inform you of what I think are exemplary actions by several of ACS' employees. I know there are many employees that give of their time and expertise to make this department a better one, but three employees have caught my attention. First is Georgette Dee. She has given her heart and soul into making BARC the excellent facility that it is today...I personally want you to know of her dedication to BARC and ACS; and most of all, she kept a positive attitude and always kept striving to make things better. She is such an important part of BARC's success. Second is Danny Johnson. The last several weeks at the Brain Institute have been trying ones... This is where the third person comes into play. Angie Boykin works in the sterile supply area, but is trained to help with the animals. Between Danny and Angie they covered all the rodent rooms, a rabbit room, dirty side of cage wash, garbage disposal, and still managed to get the supplies wrapped and autoclaved. What impressed me about this duo was the fact that I never heard a negative comment leave their mouth... They had to look at everything that had to be done and then come up with a plan to change some, dump some, autoclave some, then change some more, and so on. I, as a manager, never had to lift a finger to come up with this plan... They were concerned about their fellow worker and that makes me proud of them as a manager..."

PeopleSoft Conversion

Beginning on July first, the University of Florida, and ACS, will be converting over to PeopleSoft management systems. It is important for investigators to ensure that one account is left open for per Diem charges and other service fees. The accounting staff at ACS has already begun identifying PeopleSoft equivalent account numbers, but Investigators are requested to confer with their fiscal personnel to ensure that the correct billing information is on file at ACS, to prevent any hiccups once PeopleSoft goes live in the new fiscal year.

Posting in the Animal Areas

All investigative staff are reminded that there is to be no unapproved posting on animal room doors or in animal areas. All postings are to be approved by ACS before they are placed in an animal area. Too many signs on the doors create a confusing clutter for investigator and husbandry staff alike. Unnecessary signs also impede sanitation of the area, and could endanger the health status of the animals.

Quarantine Policy

To ensure that large animals are healthy, they must be screened for signs of disease during the quarantine period. This screening includes a physical exam, CBC and fecal parasite check, and additional tests according to the animal species (see below). Animals from unapproved vendors may be subject to additional testing. The costs of quarantine testing are charged to the investigator.

If the investigator requests, some vendors will perform such testing before the animals are shipped. Any tests performed within 3 months prior to arrival at UF will be accepted in lieu of testing during quarantine. Investigators who are clinical veterinarians at the VMTH may perform their own physical exams and testing if this is done within 10 days of arrival at UF; results should be communicated to the ACS veterinarian.

- . Class A Dogs: chemistry panel, heartworm antigen, Giardia test
- . Class B Dogs: Ehrlichia and Borrelia serology
- . Cats: chemistry panel, FeLV, FIP and FIV (unless previously vaccinated for FIV)
- . Sheep: Coxiella phase I and II IFA, two tests at least 2 weeks apart
- . Horses: chemistry panel
- . Macaques: chemistry panel; macaque serology panel; fecal culture for Salmonella, Shigella, Yersinia; TB test
- . Other nonhuman primates: chemistry panel; fecal culture for Salmonella, Shigella, Yersinia; TB test"

Per Diem Rate Update

The Animal Care Services (ACS) has completed the preparation of its annual budget. The majority of the operating expenses are paid for through per diems and other services. Due to increased operating costs and changes in the percentage of support per species, it is necessary to adjust the per diems to meet those budgetary needs. Animal Care Services continues to need a significant number of improvements in program, facilities, equipment and staff. Changes in per diem rates, effective July 1, 2004 were reviewed by both the Animal Care Advisory Council and the Faculty Advisory Committee. Our goal in preparing the new fee schedule was to establish equitable rates based on cost analysis of the services provided. To balance the ACS budget, it is necessary that ACS increase the per diems by 4% for SPF rats, SPF mice, cats, cattle and sheep, and a 6-10% increase for other species. Cost-accounting suggests that the per diems for these species need to be increased to reduce the disproportionate burden on the users of mice and SPF rats, cats, cattle and sheep. For animals housed in the Infectious Disease Suite, the rate will be 150% of the normal per diem rate. Fees for other services have been adjusted to meet associated costs. We have posted fees for quarantine services for animals from "non-approved vendors" or from approved vendors with less than satisfactory health reports. Please review the fee schedule posted on the ACS web site at <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/>. After several meetings with the Faculty Advisory Committee, the group has approved the decision to raise the per diems of mice/rats housed in the CB 61 quarantine suite to 150% of the SPF mouse/rat rate. This increase is consistent with the rodent pathogen control policy, as the maintenance of infected rodents creates significant health risks to other animals housed in the facility.

Shipping and Receiving of Animals

All Investigators must now submit the completed Animal Shipping Request form to the ACS office at least 21 days prior to their anticipated shipping date. Shipping arrangements to the receiving facility will then be made by the shipping coordinator, Dr. Dan Wolf. ACS will provide the supplies necessary for shipping the animals. An appointment will be coordinated for the morning of shipping, where the PI, or their designated representative, will be in attendance for the animals' preparation. This is to ensure that the proper animals are sent and that conditions are optimal for the animals' journey. The cost of the shipping service varies with the number of animals shipped, the location to which

they will be sent and the materials used. As with all of ACS' policies, the website contains the billing structure for the costs associated with the shipment.

If an Investigator should wish to receive mice to our facility from another, they must submit to the ACS office a completed Animal Order form. If the animals are not to be ordered from an approved vendor, an additional Purchase of Animals from Non-Approved Vendor form will also need to be completed and submitted. Once this is fulfilled, the shipping coordinator will contact the shipping institution and request the required information needed to admit the animals. Once approved, the coordinator will arrange with the shipping institution for a date to transport the animals. Upon arrival, if the animals are from an approved vendor, they will be admitted to the room of the PI's choice. If the animals are from a non-approved vendor, they will be required to enter quarantine through a micro isolator for a six week period, after which period, an SPF sentinel that was placed with them will be sent out for serology. At receipt of a negative result, the animals will be admitted to their permanent housing.

Animal Ordering Changes

Effective July 1, 2004, all animal orders must be received and approved by 5:00 pm on Tuesdays. A late fee of \$30 will be applied if orders are received after that time, but will be placed only until 12:00 noon on Wednesdays for that week's delivery. This is changing from the current policy which has a Wednesday/Thursday deadline.

AALAS Certification Update

AALAS Certification comes in several levels and involves passing the exams. The Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician, or ALAT, is the beginning level. It requires a combination of education and work experience, and is available to all who work in Lab Animal Science, even if they do not have a high school diploma. The second level is that of the Laboratory Animal Technician, or LAT. This level of certification requires a high school diploma or equivalent, but not necessarily a Bachelor's Degree. The Laboratory Animal Technologist (LATG) and the Certified Manager of Animal Resources (CMAR), have similar requirements for eligibility, again determined by a combination of education and work experience. Classes are currently underway to assist staff in their AALAS Certification Exams. These certifications offer the attendee the chance to continue their education in their field, an opportunity for advancement and the national recognition of their ability. ACS offers an additional financial or promotional benefit.

NAVPGI Conference

The North American Veterinary Conference Post Graduate Institute was held on the 23-29 of May in Orlando, FL. This conference provides advanced continuing education to clinical veterinarians in the following fields: Advanced Behavior, Emergency and Critical Care Medicine, Feline Medicine, Gastroenterology, Ophthalmology, Radiology, Surgery and Thoracic Medicine. ACS provides animal transportation and support to several of these workshops. This is a no-kill conference. The dogs used for these workshops are available for adoption. If you are interested in adopting any of these dogs, please contact the workshop coordinator, Ms. Debby Sundstrum, at (352) 392-4700 ext. 5719. All adoptions will comply with UF Animal Care Services policies.

Health and Safety Reminder

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

All members of investigative, veterinary and husbandry staff are reminded that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used to prevent the spread of oftentimes dangerous pathogens. Please remember to use it appropriately for the safety of yourself and the animals that you are working with. Some photos of correct PPE use are as follows:



Light PPE



Moderate PPE



Full PPE

Tips for Proper Anesthesia Machine Use

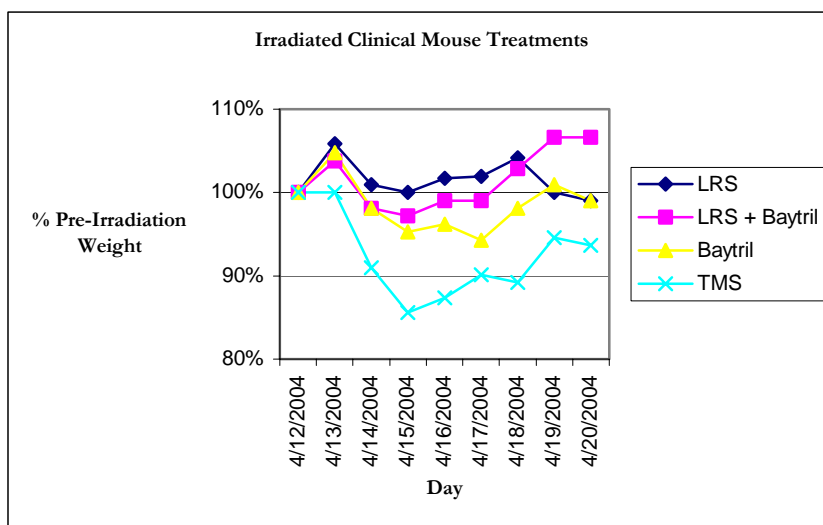
To ensure that your anesthetic machine is working properly, it is recommended that you test it for proper function, especially leaks, before each use. If you'll be using a circle breathing system with the machine, you should also check this system and the unidirectional valves on the anesthetic machine to ensure safe use. If you'll be using a nonrebreathing system instead, check this for leaks. A sample test for each of these systems can be obtained from Dr. Jensen via email at jjensen@vpha.health.ufl.edu, although manufacturer's recommendations should be followed if they differ from those.

We recommend that each anesthetic machine be inspected by a qualified anesthetic repair technician at least yearly. Halothane vaporizers should be calibrated yearly, while isoflurane vaporizers should generally be calibrated every 3 years.

Fluids and Mouse Irradiation

Recently, some investigators have reported problems following mouse irradiation. The standard treatment at UF is Trimethoprim-Sulfa (TMS) drinking water following irradiation. In working with an investigator's laboratory, Dr. Harvey Ramirez clinically evaluated a group of mice undergoing irradiation and reconstitution. Four groups were evaluated, the TMS standard (control), lactated Ringer's solution (LRS, 1 ml SQ BID), LRS + Baytril (1ml total volume, 85 mg/kg Baytril BID), and Baytril only (85 mg/kg Baytril BID). Due to precipitation, the TMS group had their water bottles shaken once daily. All clinical treatments were initiated 1 day prior to irradiation, with the exception of TMS, which was initiated the day of irradiation as per standard protocol. Animals were housed in the post-irradiation room (CB-130), weighed daily, and their general behavior was evaluated for 7 days following irradiation, a time frame when deaths had occurred post-irradiation.

All three clinical treatment groups significantly outperformed the TMS control animals ($p < 0.05$). This indicates any of the clinical treatment modalities provided a better standard of care than the TMS control group; even the antibiotic-free LRS treatment group. Investigators are encouraged to use this information for post-irradiation animal treatments to help minimize losses.



Similar weight gains have been observed in animals administered warm, pharmaceutical-grade saline perioperatively. These particular animals received Xylazine, an α -2 agonist and sedative/analgesic, known for altering blood glucose levels resulting in marked diuresis following administration. Although saline was used, LRS may be a better alternative because of its expanded electrolyte components compared to normal saline.

Other than diuresis and blood glucose alteration, pulmonary edema has been associated with Xylazine use.

If you have further questions about these results, please contact Dr. Harvey Ramirez (24481) or Dr. Patrick Sharp (28051).

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://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/subnewsanns.htm>.