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ANIMAL CARE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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FY0708 PER DIEM ADJUSTMENTS

Animal Care Services has completed the review and preparation of its annual budget. It is necessary to adjust the per diems rates to meet increased operating costs. Animal Care Services continues to try to find highly qualified staff to provide the best quality care possible. Changes in per diem rates were reviewed and endorsed by the Animal Care Advisory Council and the Faculty Advisory Committee held in May 2007. To balance the budget for ACS, it is necessary that we increase the per diems by 4%, with the exception of a 6% increase for dogs and sheep, and a 10% increase for Old World Non Human Primates. Fees for other services have also been adjusted to meet associated costs. The increase in per diem cost is due to the increased cost of feed, PPE, enrichment, and salaries ACS has incurred. The differences in per diem adjustments exist as all per diem rates were not equally subsidized. The current subsidy ACS receives is split evenly among all species. The changes will be effective 1 July 2007. Please review the fee schedule posted on the ACS web site (<http://acs.ufl.edu/>).

If you have any questions or should you require further information, please feel free to contact Tina Butts at 273-7815 or via email at tmbutts@ufl.edu.

New Fee Schedule for Importation and Quarantine of Rodents from Collaborators or Non Approved Vendors

Quarantine fees for rodents from collaborators and non-approved vendors will show an increase for the

2007-2008 fiscal year. This is primarily due to increased testing of the rodents. A bacterial profile has been added to increase the surveillance of incoming rodents. The surveillance of new rodents entering our colonies is very important to the health of all of the rodents on campus. The bacterial cultures take additional time for test results which will require an additional couple of weeks in the quarantine isolators. The final cost of importation and quarantine depends on several factors such as shipping costs and time in the isolator. Questionable test results from sentinel animals will require more time in isolators.

	<u>2006 - 2007</u>	<u>2007 - 2008</u>
<u>Sentinel testing for pathogens:</u>		
<u>In House:</u>		
Quarterly testing done in house:		
12 pathogen ELISA panel:		\$ 315.00
Part of \$315.00 set up fee		
4% increase for 2007-2008	\$327.60	
<u>Outside lab:</u>		
Microbiology	\$ 28.50	
LDHV	\$ 15.90	
Tech time and supplies		
for shipping samples:	\$ 50.00	
New set up fee:	\$422.00	\$ 422.00
<u>Isolator per diem:</u>		
An isolator holds 14 cages with up to 5 mice per cage or it can hold a few more cages with less mice per cage. Larger isolators for increased numbers are also available		
\$15.54 per day for 10 weeks 2006 -6007		\$1,087.80
\$16.16 (4% increase) per day for 12 weeks 2007-2008		\$1,357.44
<u>Approximate Total cost 2006 - 2007:</u>		\$1402.80
<u>Approximate Total cost 2007 - 2008:</u>		\$1779.44

Quarantine Procedures for CGRC

On 1 March 2007, the majority of rodents entering the Cancer-Genetics Research Complex (CGRC) animal colony were quarantined to prevent the introduction of pathogens, except for mice from commercial suppliers. The quarantine has been at no cost to investigators.



Beginning 1 July 2007, there will be a fee to help cover the cost of quarantining rodents moving to CGRC. This fee is reduced to less than one half of the normal quarantine fee for rodents on campus. See the related article about the new rodent importation and quarantine fee schedule later in this newsletter for a breakdown of costs. The cost of testing and purchasing sentinels will be \$150.00 for mice from UF campus and \$422.00 for mice from collaborators. Isolator per diems are an additional cost.

Mice entering the breeding colony: All will be quarantined.

- Most mice will go into isolators for routine quarantine with sentinel in an isolator for 6 to 7 weeks, followed by testing and release, if no pathogens are present (total time about 10 to 12 weeks).
- From SPF 2 and Pathology
 - Mice can go into a separate ventilated rack if the investigator can send 2 extra immune competent mice from the colony that are 2 to 6 months old.
 - The 2 mice will be tested two weeks after arrival and the mice will be released from quarantine if they test clean

Mice entering investigator colony:

- from SPF 2 and Pathology – no quarantine
- from all other facilities on campus – mice will go through routine quarantine in isolators

Breeding Colony Update

This is an exciting time for ACS Transgenic Breeding Services!

We are continually looking to providing researchers with more services and assisting with studies whenever possible.

A PI may find themselves down to their last pregnant female; the future of their TG/KO line depending upon the survival of the litter born. What happens if the female experiences birthing problems and needs to be euthanized? ACS is capable of performing C-Sections and fostering the pups to ensure the most valuable strain's survival.

Is there a need to set up a cohort of timed mating to get age-matched pups/embryos? Do you need food and/or body weights on all your animals daily? Don't have the time? This can be done for you in addition to daily checks for copulation plugs.

ACS Breeding Services staff is skilled at blood collection in large or small volumes. The investigator provides the materials; we provide the service! Oral dosing, IP and SQ injections can be administered so that you can spend more of your time on designing experiments and extracting the data from them.

Researchers may observe ACS staff perform these services on training animals before the actual study is done. This helps to build a rapport between the animals and ACS assuring that the study support will be adequate for their needs. Our staff is trained by designated trainers. All training records are documented by our Training and Compliance Coordinator, Charlie Mason.

ACS is offering vasectomized male mice for research studies at a fee that is less than what is being paid to vendors. One can find our new pricing structure for breeding and services for fiscal year 2007-2008 on our website at <http://acs.ufl.edu/>. We have decided to do away with the cumbersome numbered tier system and simplify our structure into three different levels. The new pricing is based on the time and materials needed to maintain the colonies. Researchers will still have to provide us with ear tags if that is the desired identification method. However, we have now included the cost of tail tubes, capillary tubes, etc. in the new per diem schedule.

Special husbandry items will now be billed to researchers separately so that they are not charged a higher rate for items that are only present in their breeder cages. You will see that we have established the same three-level pricing structure for the colony maintenance isolators as well. This was a much needed change as current and past per diems did not cover the cost of materials.

Additional time was needed to maintain the non-homozygous colonies.

Should you require further information or have any questions, please contact Ryan Fiske at 273-8324 or via email at rfiske@ufl.edu.

Rodent Shipping Fee Schedule

The following chart illustrates the increased shipping fees for FY0708.

Shipping Fees 2007-2008	
July 1, 2007-June 30, 2008	
<i>World Courier</i>	\$500. & up
<i>Air Net</i>	\$500. & up
ACS Import Fees:	
Domestic	\$196.27
International	\$232.60
ACS Export Fees:	
Domestic	\$185.60
International	\$258.72
Supplies:	
Taconic/Jax Boxes	\$31.46
Napa Nectar	\$2.29
1 bag 5 lbs irradiated 7912 feed	\$5.53
Tech Time:	
\$11.58 per quarter hour	
15 minutes	\$11.58
30 minutes	\$23.16
45 minutes	\$34.74
1 hour	\$46.32

Approved Vendor List

The following vendors do not require quarantine of rodents to enter the colonies on campus:

- ACS Breeding Colony – UF Campus
- Charles River Laboratories
- Harlan
- Hilltop Lab Animals, Scottdale, PA
- Jackson Laboratory – Production Colonies only
- National Institute for Aging

- Pathology Mouse Colony – UF Campus
- Taconic

The listed vendors below do not have the rigorous isolation and testing of their rodents as the approved vendors. Animals from these vendors must be approved on a case-by-case basis. Most of the rodents from the facilities will need to go through a quarantine period before they can be housed in an ACS rodent colony. This is necessary to protect the rodents currently housed in University of Florida rodent colonies.

- Biomedical Research Models (BRM)
- Jackson Laboratory – Research Colonies
- National Cancer Institute (NCI), Frederick Maryland facility

Special Husbandry Care by Principal Investigator

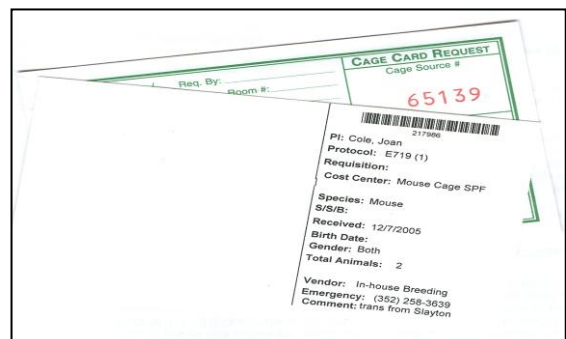
ACS would like to draw your attention to a new ACS Guideline that has been posted to our website. It addresses in detail how ACS and research staff are to deal with instances when a given research project requires/necessitates that ACS does NOT perform our standard husbandry practices. If you have any questions feel free to contact one of our area supervisors, managers, or clinical veterinarians.

You can view the Guideline at:

http://acs.ufl.edu/guidelines/Special_Care_by_PI_Rodents.shtml.

Rodent Cage Cards

Have you noticed that the soft copies of your cage card requests (green/white) are stapled to the actual cage cards that are created and placed on your cages?



We are trying this out in an effort to keep the valuable data filled out by the investigative staff

with the cage cards. After animals have been used and the cage card is not needed any longer, feel free to keep the soft copy of the cage card request for your records. Remember: Always write "SAC" followed by a date on the cage cards when turning them in for scan out.

Certification

Whitney Hartz, Surgery Manager, has successfully fulfilled the requirements for participation in the Technician Certification Registry. She is entitled to use an "R" in front of the certification acronym (RLATG). After demonstrating a commitment to broadening her repertoire, she earned the required number of Continuing Education Units during the two-year Registry period. Congratulations on your accomplishments.

Kristine Trotta is now officially a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT). She passed her National Board Exam in March 2007 bringing the total number of certified veterinary technicians employed by ACS to five. Kristine is a recent graduate from the Veterinary Technology program at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Delhi. She joined ACS in January to pursue a career as a veterinary technician in a research setting. She came to us from New Rochelle, evident in her New York accent. Kristine has worked with several species of animals and has a fondness for primates and rats. When Kristine is not hard at work here at the Health Science Center, you can probably catch her standing in the coffee line waiting for an Americano...she is addicted to the java like the rest of us!

James Morgan, who works at the Progress Center large animal barn, and David Deal, who works at the 34th street farm, earned their Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician (ALAT) certification from the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS). This is a nationally recognized certification and is indicative of the pride and professionalism that they display daily.



Staff Additions

Dr. Traci Krueger has joined ACS to assist with the veterinary care of our animals. Dr. Krueger graduated from the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine in 2003. Since then she has worked as a large animal veterinarian in private practice and recently finished a residency with the Food Animal Reproduction and Medicine Service (FARMS) at the University Florida's Veterinary Medical Center. FARMS is an ambulatory service providing veterinary care for animals used for food and fiber production (beef/dairy cattle and goats, sheep, and pigs). Her residency and Master's training has focused on herd health, farm animal medicine, and public health epidemiology. She can be reached via e-mail at kruegert@mail.vetmed.ufl.edu or at 392-0672.

Mrs. Tina Butts has joined ACS as the Assistant Director of Business. For the past six years, Tina has been deeply involved in all areas of financial reporting for main campus Contracts and Grants here at UF. Prior to joining the main campus Contracts and Grants team, Tina spent four years in the IFAS Contract and Grants department working with grants and state and federal formula funds. As the Assistant Director of Business, Tina will be reviewing all financial aspects of ACS and will assure UF is complying with all federal and state cost accounting standards. If you have any financial questions, please do not hesitate to contact her at 392-7815 or via e-mail at tmbutts@ufl.edu.

NAVCPGI

The North American Veterinary Conference Institute is the midyear veterinary continuing education meeting. The NAVC's mission is "To provide world class continuing education for all members of the veterinary health care team." Over 350 speakers presented more than 1200 hours of continuing education during the 5-day meeting (21-25 May 2007). ACS tasks were coordinated by Barbara Locke and Vickie Criswell. ACS supported the "hands-on" laboratories and workshops under their protocol by transporting animals daily and assisting the staff as directed. These laboratories and workshops covered varying topics including small animal general surgery, emergency and critical care medicine, and applied clinical behavioral medicine.

ACS has long supported the NAVC meetings and is proud to play a role in the continuing education of veterinarians and veterinary technicians across the nation.

Spring Trail Ride

On 14 April 2007, ACS staff volunteered at the 4th Annual Spring Trail Ride to benefit the Children's Miracle Network at Shands Children's Hospital.



The 10-mile scenic ride was held at the Florida Horse Park in Ocala. Kristina Steinfeldt, Whitney Hartz, Mike and Erika Riley, and The Robert Gump family (Bob and daughters, Chelsea and Madison) checked the horses' Coggins Test paperwork (Equine Infectious Anemia - highly contagious to horses), directed vehicle parking, served food, and talked to people about animal use in research.

ACS believes in public outreach and is pleased to support the Children's Miracle Network at Shands Children's Hospital. ACS staff has provided support to the Children's Miracle Network's trail ride for the past 4 years. This year's charity event drew over 120 riders.

Walk America

On 24 March, the March of Dimes held WalkAmerica in Gainesville. The ACS team walked 8.6 miles to support this worthy cause. Ms. Blanca Carbia, ACS team captain, reported: "We have formed our WalkAmerica team to raise money to help all babies be born healthy. The March of Dimes mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature births, and infant mortality. So, get the leashes, bring the pooches, and let's walk!" The four team members rose over \$400 for March of Dimes research.



Participating this year were Ms. Blanca Carbia, Progress Park Supervisor; Mrs. Stacey Robinson, ACS Front Office Program Assistant; Mr. Michael Riley, Assistant Director of Operations; and Ms. Whitney Hartz, Surgery Manager. The four footed walkers who kept the ACS team on track are (from left to right as pictured above): Rhett Carbia, Latte Carbia, and Amaretto Hartz (sporting her Alachua County search and rescue vest).

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 cmerrick@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>.
