

**Dr. August Battles**  
Attending Veterinarian/  
Director of Animal Care Services  
**Dr. Marcel Perret Gentil**  
Assistant Director of Veterinary  
Programs  
Editor



UNIVERSITY OF  
FLORIDA

## ANIMAL CARE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

Animal Care Services  
Health Science Center  
Communicore CB-159  
P.O. Box 100006  
Gainesville, FL 32610  
Telephone: 352-392-2977  
Fax: 352-392-3766

Volume 2, Issue 4

August 2002

### AAALAC International Site Visit

The Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International conducted a site visit July 9-12, 2002, at the University of Florida Health Science Center to review the animal care program and facilities. The site visitors were favorably impressed with the progress made in improving the program and facilities for animal care and use at the University of Florida. However, there were mandatory items that need to be addressed and corrected. All the mandatory items were under discussion prior to the visit, so there were no surprises.

At the exit interview, the site visitors indicated they would recommend continued probation for one year to the AAALAC Council that meets in September. We expect to receive a report sometime in October. In spite of the continued probationary recommendation, the university did quite well.

### Renovations and Equipment Improvements

Animal Care Services has completed the renovation of the experimental surgical suite. Renovations have begun in the Communicore cage wash facility. We are enlarging this facility and expect to have many upgrades to the facility completed prior to December 1, 2002. Some of the upgrades include:

- Resurfacing floors and relocating entry doors
- Installing new ceilings
- Installing a new rack washer and tunnel washer
- Installing a bedding filling station, dryer, and autoclave

We will also be upgrading the exhaust ventilation system in the Infectious Disease unit and will be renovating the locker room in this facility to meet compliance with current regulations. When completed, ABSL-3 projects may be conducted in this facility.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to improve our facilities. Other renovation projects are currently in process and we will be keeping you informed.

### Per Diem Changes Effective September 1, 2002

The Animal Care Services department has reviewed and updated the fee schedule for the 2002-03 fiscal year. The new rates will become effective **September 1, 2002**. The new fee schedule will be posted on the ACS web site at <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/>. Our goal in preparing the new fee schedule was to establish equitable rates based on cost analysis of the services provided. The proposed fee schedule and methodology for determining the fee schedule was presented to the Animal Care Advisory Council and the Faculty Advisory Committee.

---

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](mailto:tmkegley@vpha.health.ufl.edu) with "add to ACS newsletter" under subject. All issues will be maintained on our website.

The cost of maintaining research animals in the Animal Care Services during the last fiscal year was subsidized by 50%. For most species, the per diems were increased by 6%. The total cost of our operation has increased by less than 3%. The amount of funds to subsidize animal care this fiscal year remains at last year's amount. ACS needs to cover the subsidy gap by applying the increased fees over a 10-month period rather than a 12-month period.

There were exceptions to the 6% increase on some species. Increases of greater than 6% were applied to species where there were inequities. However, to ease the burden, we only increased the fee by 50% of the rate we determined by the cost analysis.

After September 1, 2002, we will also add fees for services that we previously provided for at no cost. These services include fees for processing orders, housing animals under infectious disease conditions, and housing of animals under quarantine conditions.

We have made a significant number of improvements over the last few months and need to continue improving our facilities, caging systems, staff, and procedures. I appreciate your support and welcome comments as we continue to grow.

## **ACS Renovated Surgery Suite Open House**

ACS will host an open house of at the new renovated surgery suite in the Communicore Building (date to be announced). Many investigators are not aware of our facility capabilities and breadth of expertise ACS has, including minimally invasive surgery.

Be tuned for more information on future correspondence.

## **Introductions**

Mike Cormier has joined ACS as the department Engineer. Mike is a Licensed Stationary Engineer and a College certified HVACR Technician. His responsibilities at ACS will include overseeing environmental monitoring, maintaining the physical conditions of ACS animal facilities, verifying proper operation of building systems and equipment, and maintaining related documentation.

## **New Policies**

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

### **Rodent Pathogen Control Policy (Dated August 21, 2002)**

Animal Care Services (ACS) will only house rodents that do not have evidence of being naturally infected with pathogens listed on the ACS Pathogen Exclusion lists (see ACS website at <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/>), except under quarantine conditions. When pathogens are detected in sentinel rodents located in conventional rodent rooms (open box cages), all rodents within the room will be placed in quarantine. When pathogens are detected in sentinel rodents located on individual racks in SPF rodent rooms (rooms equipped with ventilated racks or micro-isolator cages and laminar flow cabinets), only the rodents located on that rack will be placed in quarantine. Investigators that experimentally infect rodents with agents on the "Exclusion" list will be required to house those rodents under ABSL-2 or 3 conditions and facilities.

Effective October 1, 2002 ACS will implement containment procedures for rodents in quarantine. Access to the quarantine facilities will be limited, and procedures (posted on the room door) will be in place to contain the pathogens within the quarantine facilities. All soiled cages, water bottles, etc. will be bagged and autoclaved prior to sanitation in the cage wash facilities. Investigators are not to remove rodents housed within the quarantine facilities, unless otherwise approved by an ACS veterinarian. Rodents housed in the quarantine facilities will be charged a 20% surcharge to cover the costs associated with the quarantine procedures.

Investigators have 12 months from the effective date of this policy to request from ACS, at no charge, rederivation of unique strains of mice or rats. After that, investigators are financially responsible for the rederivation of their animals that are under quarantine. As an alternative, investigators may request that rodents from "infected" rooms or racks be

placed in isolators to screen cages for presence of pathogens and/or to allow sufficient time for “burn out” or treatment of specific pathogens. Investigators are responsible for all costs associated with these procedures. Rodents may be maintained in quarantine for up to 6 months. After 6 months in quarantine, rodents must be euthanized or other arrangements made with the Director of Animal Care Services.

This policy becomes effective October 1, 2002. All Animal Care Services Policies are posted on the Animal Care Services web site (<http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/>). Please periodically review the ACS web site.

## Policy Changes/Clarifications

### DEA Controlled and Non-Controlled Drug Order Policy

ACS is still receiving requests for DEA controlled drugs. According to the University of Florida policies, ACS cannot serve as a distributor of controlled drugs to investigators, **not even by the dose**. Each researcher is responsible for ordering his/her own drugs using their DEA restricted license. ACS will continue to dispense non-controlled drugs. Please refer to the ACS website for ordering.

## Anesthetic Gas Scavenging

Animal Care Services (ACS) provides investigators and their staff a portable anesthesia machine to be used for IACUC approved procedures. Some investigators have purchased their own anesthetic equipment.

It is important to understand how to reduce the exposure to waste gases produced in laboratories. Anything higher than 2 ppm according to the American 1-h ceiling concentration is considered high for stand-alone use of halogenated inhalation anesthetic agents.

We suggest that investigators maintain logs of F/Air canister weights. These logs may be reviewed by the IACUC and EH&S.

The following guideline was prepared to help you reduce anesthetic waste gases exposure to personnel.

### Ways to Minimize Exposure to Waste Gases:

If a mask is used, make sure it has a tight seal around the animal's face. If using F/Air canisters, record weight before initial use and after each use. After a 25-gram increase, place the canister in a plastic bag before it is discarded. Thoroughly clean the induction chamber immediately after each use to avoid residual anesthetic waste release into the environment (which can continue to be released for up to three hours). Before removing the animal from the induction chamber, close the in-line valve. The vaporizer should be professionally calibrated as recommended by the manufacturer.

### Scavenging System Options:

**BEST:** Perform all procedures, including use of the induction chamber, under a fume hood. No F/Air canister required.

**BETTER:** Connect a long corrugated hose from your breathing system (and/or induction chamber) to an exhaust outlet. These outlets can be found by the wall vent. Physical Plant Division can assess this for you. Waste gases will be taken out through the vent onto the outside. No F/Air canister required.

**GOOD:** When using F/Air canisters, the manufacturer recommends replacing the canister after 50 grams of increment in weight relative to the initial weight and/or after 12 hours of use. Smith and Bolon demonstrated significant release of isoflurane waste into the environment when canisters continued to be used between the 25 and 50-gram increments. Accordingly, F/Air canisters should be replaced after a 25-gram increment.

*Note:* The above recommendations are based on JC Smith and B Bolon. *Atmospheric Waste Isoflurane Concentrations Using Conventional Equipment and Rat Anesthesia Protocols*. Contemporary Topics 41 (2), 2002.

## Animal Use Protocols & ACS Veterinary Consultations

Veterinary protocol consultation, which takes place prior to submission to the IACUC must take place early enough to avoid the old “Application Deadline Anxiety Syndrome.” Delaying consultation with ACS veterinarians poses a risk to meet the PI’s desired timeframe. There are a number of circumstances that can cause delays, such as:

- Individuals may have other time commitments, clinical duties, out-of-town meetings, or be on sick leave or vacation time.
- Back and forth correspondence between ACS veterinarians and the PI takes time.
- ACS veterinary review group may decide call a formal meeting with the PI.
- Imperfect e-mail system – correspondence lost in cyberspace.
- Then, once submitted to the IACUC other similar or other unforeseen circumstances may delay the process, including the protocol being called to full committee review.

Remember that the veterinary consultation does not initiate the IACUC review process. It takes place well before submission for consideration by the IACUC. However, the veterinary consultation process should make it easier for the IACUC members to understand and thus decrease the amount of time needed for their review.

Once an Animal Use Approval Request form has been revised in consultation with the ACS veterinarians, it may be submitted to the IACUC for review. These requests are batched and sent to IACUC members each week for the mandatory “Member Consideration” period. During this time no action may take place but all members have the opportunity to call any protocol to a convened meeting for Full Committee (FC) discussion. The IACUC office will notify investigators as their protocols move through each phase of the IACUC review process. If not called to FC review, the IACUC Chair will assign the protocol to a member who acts as Designated Reviewer on behalf of the full committee. Whether under FC or Designated Review, IACUC reviewers and investigators then interact directly to obtain an approvable animal use protocol. Please consult the website (<http://animaluse.ufl.edu>) or the IACUC office (392-9917) for further information on the animal use protocol review/approval process.

## Animal Medical Records

The Animal Welfare Act requires that a medical record on all USDA-covered (regulated) species (“animal”) be maintained from the day they arrive at ACS until the day they have finished their requirement for the research.

The Animal Welfare Act defines “*animal*” as “*any live or dead dog, cat, nonhuman primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or any other warm blooded animal, which is being used, or is intended for use for research, teaching, testing, experimentation, or exhibition purposes, or as a pet. This term excludes: Birds, rats of the genus Rattus and mice of the genus Mus bred for use in research.*”

*Note:* Rodents fall under the USDA’s definition of “animal” and are therefore considered regulated.

The research staff is responsible for documenting every research and clinical procedure in the animal’s medical record daily progress notes. Examples of documentation required include anesthesia, medication, dosage, route of administration, surgery, and euthanasia. Any medical treatment given to the animal should be recorded in the pink treatment record sheet.

*Note:* Treatments for clinical reasons may be administered by the research staff only after receiving approval by an ACS Veterinarian. In addition, regulatory agencies require that each regulated animal (except for USDA-covered rodents) medical record be retained for at least 3 years after the animal is no longer in the animal facility. Please, return all completed animal medical records to ACS once the animal study is completed.

## **Miscellaneous**

We have observed investigator staff removing large quantities of ACS-owned personal protective equipment (e.g. boxes of gloves and gowns). **These items are to be used only by ACS or research staff while working in the ACS animal rooms.** Your cooperation is appreciated.