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ANIMAL CARE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

Volume 7, Issue 3

September 2007

Project Heal

Project HEAL (Health Extension And Learning), was established in 1999 by two veterinarian students, Dr. Traci Krueger and Dr. Martinot, from the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine in connection with the Universidad Central de Quito, instituting a friendship between the two Universities in order to benefit students and developing communities.

A group of veterinary students travels to visit remote communities and the Universidad Central de Quito. In the communities, the main activities are to de-worm small ruminants and cattle, to castrate male cats which are potential transmitters of zoonotic diseases, and to help the communities with basic husbandry techniques. The trips are aimed at creating a strong bond between students and the communities visited with the Ecuadorian veterinary students. To learn more about their goals, visit the mission link at <http://www.vetmed.ufl.edu/clubs/HEAL/>.



The Animal Care Services staff, headed by Surgery Manager, Whitney Hartz, donated all expired sutures, old instruments and non controlled expired drugs to the Heal project.

With Dr. Battles' support, any and all non controlled expired drugs ACS possessed that were not returnable to the companies were donated to the organization. This included antibiotics and various injectable and oral medications such as albon etc. Instead of watching Shands throw out unused disposable instruments, a plan was put into effect

to utilize them and make small surgery packs for neutering cats and repairing abscesses etc.

"Students will be fortunate to gain a new perspective on life, in general, and also a new perspective of veterinary medicine."

Dr. Traci Krueger

FAALAS Annual Meeting

Dr. August Battles and David Deal, 34th St Farm Laboratory Animal Technician, presented at the Annual Florida Branch, American Association for Laboratory Animal Science meeting on 21 July 2007. Dr. Battles' presentation entitled "New Technology for Census Management Delivers Accuracy, Labor Savings for University of Florida" addressed how Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology is making its way from Wal-Mart into lab animal facilities. UF is working with the RFID industry to develop census procedures to deliver accurate, real time colony information. Other applications for RFID include automated equipment sanitation monitoring and property management.

David Deal works with our covered species and is very interested in the environmental enrichment of animals. His presentation entitled "What Can We Do to Improve Large Animal Enclosures?" demonstrated how animal facilities can introduce home-made environmental enrichment devices in a safe and cost effective manner. A facility can provide cost effective animal environmental enrichment using ingenuity.

FAALAS Technicians of the Year

The Florida Branch, American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (FAALAS) chose two Animal Care Services employees as Technicians of

the Year (TOY) at its annual meeting on 21JUL07. Amid a bumper crop of nominations, FAALAS chose as the 2007 Technicians of the Year: Anita Hancock in the 0-4 years experience category and James (Danny) Johnson in the 4-8 years experience category. ACS nominated three employees for this year's TOY award: David Deal (34th St Farm), Anita Hancock (BARC), and James Johnson (Communicore SPF).

On the entry level, Anita Hancock received the award of TOY with less than 4 years of experience in the lab animal field. Nonetheless, Anita has been in the animal field for the last 20 years, and exceeding in all throughout the years, as an excerpt from one of the letters of recommendation indicates:

"I am impressed with the dedication and diligence Ms. Hancock demonstrates on a daily basis and the countless times she has performed her duties to the utmost skill and ability. The enthusiasm, integrity, and focus she displays while working with her animal charges are qualities that make her a pleasure to work with. Ms. Hancock's meticulous attention to detail and logical approach to solving and troubleshooting problems have helped her provide our veterinary staff and researchers with constant reliable coverage and support."

Danny Johnson, who works with the HSC rodents, received recognition of the second level (4 – 8 year's animal research experience). Danny has worked for ACS since August 2002 as a Laboratory Animal Technician caring for animals at both the McKnight Brain Institute and Health Science Center. During this time, he consistently displayed an outstanding work ethic, a "can-do" attitude, and provides high quality animal care for our barrier maintained rodents. Danny is a very detail-oriented person who has mastered the basics of animal care which is why he was selected to train new staff in animal care work procedures and Standard Operating Procedures. Without being required to, he has passed the UF Supervisory Challenge. He is taking his role as the FAALAS Technician Branch Representative with AALAS seriously and has aggressively pursued enrolling ACS staff in the AALAS Learning Library. He looks for ways to improve the efficiency of his section and to improve on the care of the animals. Danny is a very competent, animal-welfare-oriented technician who works with technicians, managers, and researchers to get the job done without upsetting staff or

researchers. He regularly receives compliments from researchers.



Pictured above (from left to right); Luis Zorrilla, Coordinator of Research Programs; Anita Hancock; Danny Johnson; Dr. August Battles, Director.

The UF ACS department has had 11 technicians selected as Technician of the Year since 1993 and a ACS technician has been selected as the TOY every year since 2003. We have always known the quality of the staff working at ACS. The state AALAS branch recognizes our staff's capabilities as well.

Previous Technicians of the Year:

- 1993 – Vickie Criswell
- 1994 – Alex Trapp
- 1995 – Kenneth Atkins
- 1996 – Cynthia Sanders
- 1999 – Christopher Rutt
- 2003/04 – Luis Zorrilla
- 2005 – Kevin Chadbourne
- 2006 – Deborah Dalziel; Rachele Wright

Certification

Congratulations are in order for more ACS staff. ACS is proud to have 35 staff members who are AALAS certified. David Deal, who works at the 34th Street Farm, and Stephanie Frank, who works at the Progress Park animal facility, each earned their Assistant Laboratory Animal Technician certifications. Robert Haynes, CGRC Breeding Colony, passed his AALAS Laboratory Animal Technician certification exam. Dania del Castillo, Veterinary Technician, passed the Vet Tech National Exam (VNTE) making her a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT). Let's root for her to pass the Florida practical exam in January 2008 in order for her to achieve a CVT title.

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@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.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Integration

The implementation of the ACS RFID project is well underway at the Cancer-Genetics Research Complex (CGRC) animal facility. We have tested the system in the ACS Breeding suite for the past several months and it has been functioning well. ACS is currently working to convert the rest of the suites at CGRC. At the time of this publication, the 585 suite has been completed. When you are through with your cage cards, you will need to checkout your cages at the checkout station located in the main hallway. A receipt will print for

you when checking out cages. Please retain this as this is proof that the cages were checked out.

In addition to the checkout process, your cage inventory is available on *myACS*. You will be able to login and see any active cages, and which facility and rack in the room they are in. When animals are checked out, they will immediately be removed from inventory and charging stops. You will also be able to keep your paper cage cards, as they will not be required to be turned in anymore. ACS will be emailing labs as their animal rooms are brought onto the new system.

If you have any questions regarding the RFID system, please feel free to contact Evan Hochman, ACS IT Expert, at 273-5009 or via email at ehochman@ufl.edu.

Construction Update

Construction has started on the BSL-3 suite in the Communicore animal facility. The mechanical contractors have been selected for the project and things are progressing as scheduled. One of the major challenges in this project will be replacing the bulk autoclave. Due to the size of the unit, doorways and walls must be removed and replaced. This may have an impact on cage wash operations. If you have any questions regarding ACS construction, please contact Mike Cormier, Facilities Engineer, at mcormier@ufl.edu.

The Lighter Side



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>.
