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UNIVERSITY OF  
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## ANIMAL CARE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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### AAALAC-International Update

Hear ye, hear ye! The University of Florida has received notice of **full** accreditation by AAALAC-International. We appreciate everyone's efforts in reaching this milestone. We can now move forward and focus more on program improvements.

AAALAC-International (Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care) is a private, non-profit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science. More than 650 companies, universities, hospitals, government agencies and other research institutions have earned AAALAC accreditation, demonstrating their commitment to responsible animal care and use. These institutions *volunteer* to participate in AAALAC's program, in addition to complying with the local, state and federal laws that regulate animal research. This demonstrates that the programs are going above and beyond the minimums required by law, and achieving true excellence in animal care and use.

### Staff Announcements

- ❖ Mary Reinhard, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACLAM, ACVP has joined the ACS staff. Dr. Reinhardt retired from Ethicon Endo-Surgery (EES) where she served as the Attending Veterinarian and Business Unit Manager for 11 years. Prior to her work at EES, Dr. Reinhard served as Director of Animal Care Clinical Services and Attending Veterinarian at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. Reinhard will serve as the interim Associate Director until January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2004, after which she will serve as the Veterinary Pathologist for Animal Care Services.
- ❖ Daniel Wolf, DVM has joined ACS as a member of our Veterinary Services section. Over the past five years, Dr. Wolf has been a Veterinarian with Hillandale Farms in Lake City, FL and was responsible for flock health and maintenance as well as acting as company liaison with the Department of Agriculture in Georgia and Florida. Dr. Wolf joins us on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, and will serve as manager of the rodent breeding colony and provide clinical veterinary support.
- ❖ Patrick Sharp, DVM, Diplomate ACLAM, has joined the ACS staff. For the last five years, Dr. Sharp was with the Division of Lab Animal Medicine, UCLA School of Medicine during which time, he has served as Associate Director, Director of Veterinary Services, Residency Training Program Director and Senior Clinical Veterinarian. Dr. Sharp will join us on January 16, 2004 as the Senior Assistant Director and Associate Clinical Professor in charge of ACS Veterinary Services.
- ❖ Ms. Santhi Mani has been promoted to the position of supervisor in the SPF husbandry section. Ms. Mani has been with ACS for 11 months and has eight years of experience in the laboratory animal field, including breeding programs and husbandry. She holds a Master of Science degree and is preparing to take the AALAS certification exam. Ms. Mani can be paged at 727-4186.
- ❖ Ms. Deborah Dalziel has joined ACS as the Loading Dock Manager. Ms. Dalziel has over 20 years of experience with research animals and a degree in veterinary technology, which will help her to receive, process and when necessary, move the animals in a timely and careful manner. If you have any questions about when or how your animals are received at the Health Science Center, please do not hesitate to contact her at 392-9430 or via email at [ddalziel@vpha.health.ufl.edu](mailto:ddalziel@vpha.health.ufl.edu).

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 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. This and all past issues of the newsletter can be accessed at <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/subnewsanns.htm>.

## Staff Recognitions

The following is an excerpt from an unsolicited letter from an investigative staff member:

"I would like to thank SPF personnel and especially Santhi Mani and Warren Tanton for helping me with our research project by monitoring the condition of transgenic animals housed in SPF.

I am working with the R6/2 transgenic model of Huntington's disease and accelerated aging, which exhibit a neurological phenotype that mimics many of the features of HD. The mice deteriorate rapidly, and don't live longer than about 100 days. Therefore it is critical for my study to be informed about any significant changes or problems occurring with R6/2. Santhi and Warren are monitoring R6/2 daily, and keeping me informed, which gives me the confidence that I won't lose valuable research material when I must attend other tasks."

The following is from an unsolicited email from an investigative staff member:

"I just wanted to let you know that Shannon Sunday is doing a really great job helping us out with the Wood lab's sheep surgeries. Since Luis has left she has quickly learned how to successfully anesthetize and intubate the animal and set up for surgery after only minimal training. She's always willing to help out with anything I need, and along with Jennie McQueen, make difficult surgery preps much less stressful for the animal and our lab. We really appreciate working with great people!"

- We congratulate Ms. Sherry Scruggs (Outlying Facilities Coordinator) for publishing *Marking System to Verify Changing of Rodent Cages* in the October issue of AALAS Tech Talk. We encourage our administrative staff to publish in journals and newsletters to increase our visibility among our Investigators and colleagues.

## Reminder from the Director

Cage cards are used to identify rodents and other small species as required by federal regulations. Cage cards are used because these species are difficult and/or expensive to individually identify. Some investigators use the cage card to record research information, and although it is not the policy of ACS to remove the cards, loss or damage does occur. It is the responsibility of the investigator to ensure that any research information placed on the card is duplicated and kept in a secure place.

## Loading Dock Procedure

Deb Dalziel, Loading Dock Manager, would like to provide you with the best service possible, and there are several things you can do to help in expediting your order. One is to make sure that when placing orders, the full name and email of a contact person is provided. Second, when requesting that an animal be moved from one facility to another, ensure each portion of the request form is complete. Incomplete and/or incorrect information delays order processing.

## Security Issues

Now that security access and cameras to the various areas in the Communicore are being installed, we are asking everyone to help enforce security. All persons going into the secured area are responsible for anyone whom they allow to enter the facility. Please do not give access to unauthorized personnel. Cameras will help monitor such activities and enable us to detect individuals that should not be in the facilities. Security measures will help prevent cross contamination between areas of the Communicore and decrease pathogen spread among investigators' animals.

- ✓ Security is up and running in SPF and CB-61. Security cameras are being installed at the entrance and exit locations of the SPF, CB-61 and Infectious Disease Isolation hallways.

## New Policies, Policy Changes and Policy Clarifications

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

**Rodent Pathogen Control Policy** – Animal Care Services has recently redesigned the Rodent Pathogen Control Program. Please see the website for details. <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/policy/control.htm>

**Policy on Contacting Investigators for Animal Health Emergencies** – This policy has also undergone revision. Details are posted on our website. <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/policy/acspolicy.doc>

- ACS will now hold animals “found dead” for only 24 hours, with the exception of weekends and holidays. If ACS determines a necropsy should be performed to meet regulatory requirements, we will contact the investigator as per emergency contact procedures. <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/policy/acspolicy.doc>

**Animal Orders Authorized Personnel**

Policy Description: To limit the purchase of animals for use on approved protocols to authorized personnel only.

The purchase of animals for use on approved protocols is strictly limited to the Primary Investigator or his/her formally authorized designee. To authorize a designee to order animals, the PI must do so in writing to ACS.

All PIs must have formal approval of protocol research and have a valid IACUC number prior to any animal order being placed.

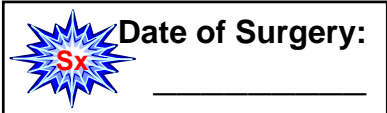


With regard to process and funding: When an order is placed, the account/encumbrance supplied on the order sheet will be validated. If the account/encumbrance is not in the SAMAS system and/or funds are insufficient to cover the costs of the order, the order will be returned for a valid account/encumbrance number and/or funding.

The responsibility to ensure valid account/encumbrance and appropriate funding levels for animal orders falls to the fiscal personnel for each PI.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please respond by e-mailing or faxing your designee's authorization to Bob Morris. Bob's e-mail address is [morrisb@ufl.edu](mailto:morrisb@ufl.edu), and his fax number is 392-3036. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

**Important Information Regarding Post-op Care of Rodents**

When returning rodent to ACS animal room after surgery, please make sure to do the following:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place a surgery sticker on the cage card (not on the cage) &amp; date.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place a blue/white 4x6 magnetic placard on the animal room door. This placard must face the animal corridor.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fill out the pink Rodent Surgery Log, which is posted on the animal room door facing the corridor.</li> </ul>	

All post surgical animals must be continuously monitored until the animal has regained the righting reflex. **Unless otherwise described in the approved IACUC protocol, research staff must:**

- perform daily post-op checks on their animals for at least 5 days.
- remove any external sutures or clips 10-14 days post-op.

Pain management must be done according to what is written in the approved IACUC protocol.