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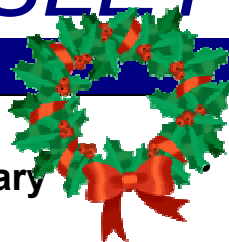
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## ANIMAL CARE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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### Special Care by PI Monthly Summary (Purple Sheets)



telephone/pager number where the person can be contacted for an afterhours problem.

There has been some confusion among the labs on what is required when the lab assumes responsibility for certain husbandry tasks, e.g. feeding, watering, or changing animal cages due to experimental needs. In addition to the purple card placed on the animal's cage the lab must also fill out the Special Care by PI Monthly Summary (Purple Sheets) indicating what care they are assuming.

Some common problems:

- The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) requires lab staff to observe the animals daily including weekends and holidays when using the Purple Sheet. This is to ensure the animal's well-being while on study.
- Lab staff must initial the appropriate block for the task performed daily on the Purple Sheet, even weekends and holidays. Writing a note saying the lab will place enough food on the cage to cover the weekend and then check the animals on Monday is not acceptable. The lab is responsible for ensuring that the animals are fed or watered by 3 PM daily. Cage changes must comply with the ACS cage change schedule.
- The "ACS resumes care" block must indicate either a specific date when ACS will resume the task assumed by the lab or check the "Never" block as appropriate.
- The back of the form has a section for the individual requesting to perform the Special Care. This serves as contact information in the case of a problem. Please include a

ACS will resume care of the animals, i.e. feeding and watering, if the purple sheets are not checked daily. ACS staff cannot reach anyone on the contact information sheet.

If you have questions regarding what is required by requesting Special Care by PI you can either visit our website:  
[http://acs.ufl.edu/guidelines/Special\\_Care\\_by\\_PI\\_Rodents.shtml](http://acs.ufl.edu/guidelines/Special_Care_by_PI_Rodents.shtml) or contact the section supervisor where your animals are housed.

### International Laboratory Animal Technician Week

Join AALAS in recognizing all technicians as "Heroes behind the Science" during International Laboratory Animal Technician Week (January 27-February 2, 2008).

### International Laboratory Animal Technician Week Proclamation

Whereas, laboratory animal technicians are important members of the research team, work in laboratory animal medicine throughout the world, and are vital in providing quality animal care to ensure the humane treatment of all animals used in research;



Whereas, there are a growing number of AALAS certified technicians who provide an assurance they have the proficiency to work with various laboratory animal species through care maintained at the highest level integrating husbandry, nutrition, environmental enrichment, sanitation, health care and surveillance, regulatory compliance, research/technical support and continued training;

Whereas, it is extremely important that each laboratory animal technician pursue and maintain continuing education to provide superior animal care while upholding the highest ethical standards;

Whereas, laboratory animal technicians will be joining their colleagues around the world to urge all to recognize the technician's important contributions to the beneficial outcome of research; therefore be it

Resolved, the Board of Trustees of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science hereby declares the week of February 2 to be designated AALAS' annual International Laboratory Animal Technician Week.

Adopted by the AALAS Board of Trustees, February 3, 2007

## Rodent Breeding Services

ACS Rodent Breeding Services is able to manage even your most difficult to breed strains at half the cost of most commercial vendors, so if you are unaware of what Animal Care Rodent Breeding Services can do for you and your rodent colonies, please contact Ryan Fiske at [rfiske@ufl.edu](mailto:rfiske@ufl.edu). If you have had transgenic founders or chimeras produced for your lab, we will be able to breed them to test for germ line transmission as well!

## Rodent Breeding Colonies Managed by an Investigator's Staff

Investigators are responsible for checking their breeding colonies daily and recording the date of birth for new pups. Particular attention should be paid to the health and wellbeing of recently weaned pups.

DOB's must be recorded on the back of the cage card unless the PI has provided separate breeding logs attached to the cage card.

If an ACS Husbandry technician discovers a litter with no recorded DOB they will estimate the date to the best of their knowledge and record it on the back of the cage card or indicated area. ACS is not responsible for miscalculated DOB's.

Pups are to be weaned from their mother at 21 days of age, unless extended weaning is authorized within the breeding protocol.

When weaning pups, they will generally be placed into separate boxes by gender unless otherwise described within the breeding protocol itself. The maximum animal density is five pups per box.

In addition to providing fresh feed, **investigative staff will place a water bottle into all weaned pups' cages.**

Create "Cage Card Request" cards for the new cages and place the bottom copies on the new cages.

"Cage Card Request" cards will serve at Temporary Cage cards until permanent cage cards have been generated by the ACS Business Office.

The top copy of the "Cage Card Request" cards can be placed within a facility drop box or taken to the ACS Business Office.

For those breeding their rodents, the two most critical points are the first week of life and the first week post weaning. These are the two periods when animals are most susceptible to dehydration and other health issues. Daily husbandry health checks are a visual exam while the animals are in their caging. Subtle dehydration is unlikely to be detected during these health checks. ACS policy is to place water bottles on cages on weaned animals for the first week. Labs that wean their animals are strongly encouraged to place water bottles on cages of newly weaned animals.



ACS will be saying farewell to two employees in December. Luis Zorrilla, MBI manager, will be taking off to the Longhorn State (Texas). His duties will be taken over by Sherry Scruggs until further notice. Cristina Merricks, Executive Secretary, will enjoy the heat of Miami. Josephine Brown will be her temporary replacement. She can be reached at the 392-2978 or via email at [jwbrown@ufl.edu](mailto:jwbrown@ufl.edu).



## Dog Adoptions

Each year the North American Veterinary Conference (NAVC) receives a group of adult dogs from a class B vendor for participation in non-invasive or minimally invasive procedures such as ultrasound, laparoscopic spay, and endoscopy for teaching advanced laboratory courses to experienced veterinarians and veterinary technicians. After participating in the week long conference the dogs are made available for adoption. This January, the NAVC welcomes anyone who would like to come out and meet the dogs. They are always happy to "interview" prospective families!

The dogs will be received at the beginning of January at which time they will undergo a thorough examination by the veterinary staff that includes compatibility and personality evaluation, spay or neuter, vaccinations, and microchip placement. There will be a variety of breeds and types available with a range of temperaments: everything from very shy to extremely outgoing and active. There is no adoption charge for the dogs, however the NAVC does reserve the right to inspect potential homes or to refuse adoptions.

If you are interested in adding one of these dogs to your family, please set up an appointment by contacting either Debby Sundstrom at 352-392-4700 ext 5719, SundstromD@vetmed.ufl.edu or the Animal Care Services veterinary technician office at 352-846-0984. The incoming dogs will soon have profiles and pictures available to view online at the Gator Greys Petfinder website at <http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/FL560.html>.

### Success Stories of Previously Adopted NAVC Dogs



"Ali" ("Aliikai Adah" means Queen of The Sea, Beautiful Addition) loves her new home. She gets along great with her new brother and sister. We're able to let her go outside and not worry about her running off and now that she's stopped chewing on things, we can leave her in the house when we leave. Best of all, she's a huge cuddle bug. She'll fall asleep with her head in your lap. I'm happy to have her as our beautiful addition.

-Sabine

"Poochie" is a Beagle/Jack Russell mix and just a sweet, sweet dog. She is the kind dog that doesn't seem to mind hanging out with a 5-year-old and loves running around in the back yard.



"Poochie" loves her stuffed toys that she plays with every night and likes to curl up on the ottoman just to rub her back on our feet. Right now, with Christmas around the corner, she keeps tugging at her stocking but I tell her she just has to wait until Christmas morning. Needless to say, it's like having two children in the house...but it is so well worth it!

-Alex and Katie

We picked "Maggie" because she was one of the shy dogs who didn't "sell" herself, so to speak. Once we brought her home, though, it didn't take her long to warm up to us. She treats every day as a gift, and we enjoy watching her blossom.



-Connie

"Abby" has been trained as a Search and Rescue dog used in various types of searches including area search (live people). She has also been certified at the national level!



-Sherry



Last year ended with the passing of our beloved dog, "Casey". We had to send him to heaven two days before Christmas. Our hearts were broken and we really thought that we would take a 'pass' on having any more animals. But once I met "Bailey" at NAVC, his great personality made him our newest heart-throb. He was immediately booked on the next flight to Milwaukee. He has helped to patch such a HUGE hole in our hearts.



## **Recommended Methods of Euthanasia for Laboratory Animals**

Euthanasia derives from the Greek word "eu" or "good", and "thanatos" or "death". Euthanasia is the act of painlessly terminating life. The criteria that have been used for determining that death is painless are rapid loss of consciousness followed by cardiac and respiratory arrest. There are additional criteria that should be considered when euthanizing research animals including the emotional effect the technique has on the person(s) performing the method, and the resultant effect on the tissues or samples that may be collected post mortem. There are a variety of acceptable methods that can be used for each species and for a particular project. ACS veterinary staff is available to discuss the various techniques.

Any individual responsible for performing euthanasia by any method must be adequately trained by an individual skilled in the technique to be used, and must demonstrate proficiency in the technique before being permitted to perform euthanasia without direct supervision. ACS veterinary staff is available to provide training on these techniques if needed.

When Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is employed as the method of euthanasia, physical verification of death is required. Physical verification of death should be considered when other non-physical methods of euthanasia are employed.

The ACS Guideline addressing euthanasia is available at – <http://acs.ufl.edu/guidelines/Euthanasia.shtml>. This document overviews the various customary methods of euthanizing laboratory animals.

Further guidance on euthanasia can be found in the American Veterinary Medical Association's "Guidelines on Euthanasia", which is available at – <http://www.avma.org/resources/euthanasia.pdf>.

Specific guidance regarding the use of CO<sub>2</sub> as a euthanizing agent, and the need to perform some form of physical verification of death can be reviewed at – <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-02-062.html>, which is the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals Clarification Regarding Use of Carbon Dioxide for Euthanasia of Small Laboratory Animals.

## **Improper Euthanasia of Rodents Can Shut Down an Entire Research Lab**

Important points from the ACS website guidelines include:

- CO<sub>2</sub> is one of the most common methods used to euthanize rodents.
- CO<sub>2</sub> must be followed by a physical means to assure death. These include cervical dislocation, opening of the chest or decapitation of pups.
- It is imperative that the animals be placed in the chamber for sufficient time, as CO<sub>2</sub> initially anesthetizes the animal causing it to be unconscious and unresponsive. You should verify by observation that the animal is not breathing and palpate for lack of a heartbeat. After lack of respiration and heartbeat are verified a physical means to assure death must also be used.
- Neonates require prolonged exposure to the gas because their hemoglobin has a higher affinity for oxygen. THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON CAUSES OF IMPROPER EUTHANASIA OF RODENTS. It may take over 15 minutes of CO<sub>2</sub> exposure to euthanize a mouse pup. ALL MICE, INCLUDING PUPS MUST HAVE A PHYSICAL METHOD OF EUTHANASIA TO ASSURE DEATH. The best method to accomplish this in mouse pups is to decapitate them after they have lost their pink color and are no longer breathing.



- All ACS managed facilities contain a CO2 chamber for rodent euthanasia except in the metabolic building at VMC and Progress Center. Please review instructions on or near the chamber for proper use or request assistance from ACS personnel.
- Rodents from several cages must not be combined for euthanasia. This causes stress to the animals, which is unacceptable.

If you have any questions about euthanizing any species, Animal Care Services personnel are available and very happy to show you proper methods of euthanasia. Please contact us at 352-392-2978.

## Preoperative Preparation of Surgical Site

Aseptic technique reduces microbial contamination to the lowest possible practical level and includes preparation of the animal, such as hair removal and disinfection of the operative site. When disinfecting the surgical site, ACS recommends the following as the most effective germicidal scrub and rinse combinations:

- 1) povidone-iodine scrub followed by a 70% isopropyl alcohol rinse, or
- 2) 4% chlorhexidine scrub followed by a sterile saline rinse.

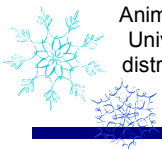
In a clinical study comparing povidone-iodine/70% isopropyl alcohol, 4% chlorhexidine/saline, combinations, the authors concluded that povidone-iodine/70% isopropyl alcohol, and 4% chlorhexidine/saline were equally effective. However, 4%chlorhexidine/70% isopropyl alcohol was inferior since it resulted in fewer negative culture results.

Since rodents can lose heat rapidly while under anesthesia, it is very important to place them on a heated surface from the time the surgical site is being prepared until the animal has recovered. In rodents, using chlorhexidine scrub with warm saline scrub may have an advantage over povidone-iodine/70% isopropyl alcohol. Warm saline can help minimize heat loss and potentially decrease post-surgical recovery time.

For more information visit ACS Guidelines for Survival Surgery in Rats, Mice, and Birds ([http://acs.ufl.edu/guidelines/Guidelines\\_for\\_Survival\\_Surgery\\_in\\_Rats\\_Mice\\_and\\_Birds.shtml](http://acs.ufl.edu/guidelines/Guidelines_for_Survival_Surgery_in_Rats_Mice_and_Birds.shtml)) or contact any ACS veterinarian.

*1 Osuna DJ, DeYoung DJ, Walker RL. Comparison of three skin preparation techniques in the dog. I. Experimental trial, Vet surg 19:14, 1990.*

## 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](mailto: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>.