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ANIMAL CARE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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Renovations and Equipment Improvements

The Animal Care Services is currently remodeling the cage wash, infectious disease, and SPF facilities in the Communicore building. We expect to have these projects completed in December. In the cage wash facilities we are installing a new tunnel washer, automatic bedding filling station, cage dryer, rack washer, bottle filling station, autoclave, and water process station for automatic watering. In addition to the installation of the equipment, it was necessary to renovate and enlarge the space. In the Infectious Disease area we are replacing and adding exhaust fans for redundancy, installing environmental monitoring, renovating the locker room, and adding exit doors. These renovations were necessary for compliance with current ADA regulations and to improve the facility for projects up to Animal Biosafety level 3. In the SPF area we will be installing an automatic watering system, adding exhaust connections to the ventilated racks, adding procedure rooms, and securing the area with the installation of new doors in hallways.

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.

Mouse Transport Containers

The Animal Care Services now provides disposable containers for the transport of mice (Figure 1). We are requesting that investigators use these containers in place of mouse boxes to transport their mice. These containers are located in the mouse housing rooms. The containers are not designed for long term housing of mice, but are to be used to transport your mice to your laboratory and for only short term holding of your mice within your laboratory. Please do not leave mice unattended while they are in these transport containers and dispose of the containers after each use. The use of the containers reduces cage replacement and cage-washing costs. Please help to control our operating costs by using the disposable transport containers.

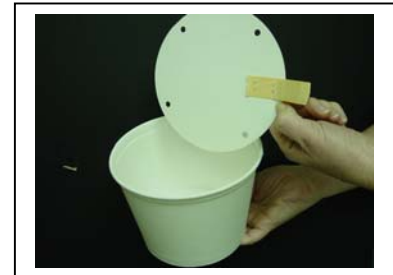


Figure 1, Mouse Transport Container

ACS Surgical Services

ACS is eager to assist investigators in performing surgeries or providing guidance in their protocols. Dr. Marcel Perret-Gentil, Assistant Director of Veterinary Programs came to us over a year ago with training and expertise in surgical research with a subspecialty in minimally invasive surgery (MIS). MIS (e.g. laparoscopy, thoracoscopy and cystoscopy) has definite advantages over traditional surgery in terms of reduced post-operative pain and recovery, return to positive nitrogen balance, immune system preservation, and improved data yield. His experience with this technology includes species as small as mice and as large as goats and pigs. Some applications of MIS in research are:

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 with "add to ACS newsletter" under subject. All issues will be maintained on our website.

- Multiple, serial biopsy of various organs, such as lymph node, liver, spleen, kidney, lung, prostate, bowel, pancreas, etc.
- Localized drug/compound delivery.
- Photodynamic therapy.
- “Second look” procedures that would otherwise require a laparotomy or thoracotomy.
- Ability to perform multiple image recordings over a period of time and thus visually detect disease progression, or the effects of therapy.
- Oncology procedures such as localized chemotherapy, sampling, etc.
- Many other procedures.

In addition, Dr. Perret-Gentil has experience in other surgical techniques and animal preps, such as.

- Telemetry implantation.
- Vascular access port (VAP) cannulation of intra-abdominal and peripheral blood vessels, bile duct, intestine etc.
- Splenic and hepatic injections.
- A variety of clinical open surgeries.
- Urethral stent placement for treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia.
- Laser tissue dissection and ablation.
- Surgical and medical device testing.
- Intracorporeal ultrasonography.
- Etc.

The fees for these surgical services are based on time and materials. We would be happy to provide you a cost estimate for these services. Please contact Dr. Marcel Perret-Gentil at 2-0672 to discuss your surgical needs.

New Cards

Cage Identification Card

The Animal Care Services remains committed to providing a quality program and services to the bio-medical community at the University of Florida. We are in the process of converting to TOPAZ, a new cage card management system. This system will allow us to monitor the animal census with bar codes and scanning. We use cage cards not only to identify the animals within the cages, but also to monitor the movement of cages, as well as for billing purposes. In order for this system to work effectively, we need your cooperation to insure that all your research animal cages display ACS’s new TOPAZ cage card on the cage or pen. On the left side of the new cage card, there is a space for use by the investigator (figure 1). The investigator may write on this space or attach a label. The right side of the card contains data for monitoring the protocol and for billing purposes. A breeding cage card label is provided on the ACS web site (Figure 3). Follow the link to forms.

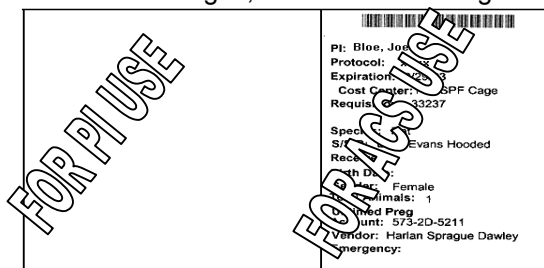


Figure 2

Cages or animals are recorded in the census by the ACS staff and will only be removed from your census when the cage cards are scanned out in the ACS Front Office. ACS staff will scan the cage cards on a weekly basis. To facilitate this process, the new TOPAZ cage card must be placed in front of other cards in the cage cardholder. Your cooperation insuring that the TOPAZ cage card remains in the front is appreciated. Additional cage cards can be placed in

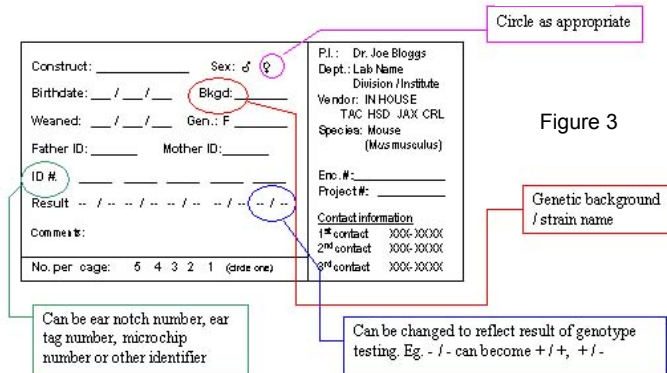


Figure 3

the back of the identification cage card. **Please do not place notes directly on the cage.** The notes will not be transferred during the cage cleaning/changing process.

When animals, other than rats or mice, are terminated, please write on the card "SAC," the date the animal was terminated, and place the card in one of the black "drop boxes" that are located throughout the facilities. You may also return the cage card to the ACS Front Office. The procedure for rats and mice cage cards requires that you write on the cage card "SAC," the date the box was emptied, and place the card in the drop box as described above. You may use the copier in the ACS office to make copies of the cage card for your records. **Animals will not be removed from your census billing until your cage cards have been scanned out**, as described above. After November 1, 2002, ACS will no longer use the census sheets in the animal rooms to determine monthly billing. However, you may request that this form be placed in an animal room for your personal use.

Please note that our new cage card management system no longer provides cage cards for each rat or mouse. Cage cards are now printed for each cage. For rats or mice, the per diem is either for single or group housing. The bar code on the new cage card identifies the census unit and billing is based on the census unit. Rats and mice may be housed singly or as a group. This is determined when the animals are ordered. Cage cards are printed with this information. Cards used for housing rats or mice individually will also be identified with a large "S". Please remember that no more than one animal is to be housed in these cages. If the ACS staff finds more than one animal in a single housed cage, a new cage card will be requested and the census unit will be adjusted back to the beginning of the month. For your reference, these cages will be handled consistent with the "Unidentified Cage Policy" found on the ACS web site <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/index.htm>. Follow the link to Policies.

Thank you for cooperation and patience as we move forward to implement this new cage card management system and continue in the development of our animal care program.

SPECIAL CARE BY PI Card

When PI wishes to perform protocol approved care of animals, he/she fills out and places a "SPECIAL CARE BY PI" purple card on the cage (Figure 4). This card is especially usual for animal fasting. These cards are available throughout all the facilities.

New Policies

Fasting Request

Fasting animals is done in one of two ways:

- PI sends sending a fasting request to ACS (see website) at least two days prior to the desired fasting, OR
- PI fills out and places a "SPECIAL CARE BY PI" purple card in the cage. Fasting then becomes the responsibility of the PI.

SPECIAL CARE BY PI
Please check the appropriate item(s):

→ No Food → No Water

→ PI will Feed → PI Will Water

→ Do Not Change the Cage

→ / → / →:

Date and Time ACS Assumes Care

Item(s) checked above have been approved by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee Protocol Number.

Print name and phone number of individual requesting this special care:

Name Phone #

THE PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR ASSUMES RESPONSIBILITY FOR ITEM(S) CHECKED ABOVE.

Figure 4

OLAW's Policy on Chemical Euthanasia

The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare has issued PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals guidance to Assured institutions clarifying current requirements regarding the use of carbon dioxide (CO₂) as a euthanasia agent for small laboratory animals. The policy states:

“Although CO₂ is generally considered an acceptable euthanasia agent for small laboratory animals when properly administered, its acceptability is predicated on the following:

- High concentrations of CO₂ may be distressful to some species. Accordingly, pre-filling the chamber is recommended only under circumstances in which such use has not been shown to cause distress. While conclusive data are not available for all species, IACUCs and veterinary staff should keep abreast

of current peer-reviewed scientific literature and apply informed professional judgment to the design of institutional policies for CO₂ delivery systems and procedures, keeping in mind the imperative to avoid or minimize discomfort, distress, and pain when consistent with sound scientific practices.

- Death must be verified after euthanasia and prior to disposal. Unintended recovery must be obviated by the use of appropriate CO₂ concentrations and exposure times or by other means. OLAW notes that thoracotomy after apparent death from CO₂ is one way to ensure the irreversibility of the procedure.
- Institutions must ensure that all individuals responsible for administering CO₂ euthanasia are appropriately qualified and monitored, and that they adhere to IACUC-approved protocols and institutional policies.
- Chambers must not be overcrowded. In this regard, it is important to also consider that mixing unfamiliar or incompatible animals in the same container may be distressful.
- Compressed CO₂ in cylinders is the only AVMA Panel-recommended source of CO₂ for euthanasia purposes.”

For more information, visit the OLAW website at <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/olaw.htm>.

Surgical Research Specialist Certification

The Academy of Surgical Research (ASR) provides a Surgical Research Specialist (SRS) exam at its annual meeting. Becoming SRS certified places the surgical technician in an elite group of less than 130 worldwide.

Certification of surgical research specialists by the Academy of Surgical Research is based upon the demonstration of ability to perform basic aseptic survival surgery on animals. ASR certified surgical specialists have basic skills and knowledge to accomplish survival surgery procedures on animals as members of a surgical team as described in “Guidelines for Training in Surgical Research in Animals,” *Journal of Investigative Surgery*. 1989, 2(3):263-268.

Dr. Marcel Perret-Gentil is currently a member of ASR board of directors. For has previously served as the Education Committee Chair years he was the SRS committee Chair, was involved in administering the exam and spear headed the most recent changes to the exam. Feel free to contact him if you have any questions.

For more information on the requirements and application process, visit the ASR website at <http://www.surgicalresearch.org/>.

New SPF Training Required

The SPF rodent facility has received new laminar flow hoods and HEPA ventilated caging. With these new items come new procedures, which must be followed to ensure that pathogens are not introduced or spread throughout the facility. Attending a SPF orientation class is now required for everyone needing access to a SPF room in the Communicore building. Please contact Travis Cossette at 846-0982 or travisc@ufl.edu to sign up for an orientation class.

ACS Staff Announcements

- Mr. Travis Cossette (SPF supervisor) received AALAS certification at the Laboratory Animal Technician (LAT) in Sep, 02. This is the second of four AALAS certification level, which attests to a high level of technical proficiency.
- Every year ACS accepts nominations of outstanding ACS employees to attend the Annual AALAS Meeting. I am pleased to announce that for this year’s 53rd Annual AALAS Meeting Ms. Georgette Dee (husbandry technician), Mr. Luis Zorrilla (surgery manager) and Mr. Travis Cossette (SPF supervisor) were chosen to attend. Ms. Rachelle Wright (veterinary technician), Ms. Lucy Kappel (large animal husbandry technician) and Mrs. Marilyn Panico were also nominated.