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UNIVERSITY OF  
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## ANIMAL CARE SERVICES NEWSLETTER

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### AAALAC International Site Visit Official Ruling

The Council on Accreditation of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC International) has given an official ruling on the July 9-12, 2002 visit to the University of Florida. The Council commended the staff and administrative staff for the several improvements in the animal care and use program since the February 2000 site visit. In spite of the many improvements, in the Council's judgment, some of the deficiencies noted did merit "Probationary Accreditation" of the J. Hillis Miller HSC. The status is for a period of six months beginning October 9, 2002. At the end of the six months, the University will issue a written report to AAALAC International indicating the corrective steps taken to address the stated deficiencies. We are pleased to say that a lot of progress has been made and we feel quite optimistic about the final outcome.

### Renovations and Equipment Improvements

The new tunnel washer and rack washer have been installed and are now functional. The automatic bedding fill station on the tunnel washer will reduce labor costs involved in processing cages.

In the SPF area, automatic watering in the ventilated racks will be operational mid-January. Some doors are being installed to help control access to the SPF area.

The Infectious Disease locker room has been reconfigured to meet current regulations, and a new exhaust fan has been added to allow BSL-3 projects to be conducted in this facility.

The new cat complex work has begun with utilities, grading, roadways, and fencing all underway. We expect delivery of the modular unit the around the first of the year.

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.

### Rodent Breeding Colony Management Services

ACS provides rodent breeding colony management services at **no charge** to investigators housing animals (mice and rats) in the SPF area. The researcher will need to provide the breeding scheme/plan to ACS and ACS will breed your research animals according to your needs. Investigators will need to fill out the "*Breeding Services Request for Rodents in Communicore SPF Facility*" form (see website) requesting breeding of animals and other services desired. Investigators will also need to provide the details of the animals to be bred such as strain characters, immune status, age and color of animal and desired weaning/isolation dates. ACS also offers services such as identification of individual animals, and biological sample collection for a nominal fee. Weaning of pups at the desired age and live animal collection will be part of the breeding services.

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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.

To provide these services, the investigator must have an IACUC-approved animal care and use protocol before these services are provided.

Please contact Dr. Sunder Shrestha (ACS Clinical Veterinarian) if you have any questions. ACS plans to present a *Breeding Services* seminar. Date, time and place TBD.

## Rodent Pathogen Control

We are moving forward with the Rodent Pathogen Control program. Our goal for 2003 is to eliminate all "Excluded" pathogens from our rodent colony. To accomplish this, ACS will implement the following procedures:

1. Filter tops will be placed on conventionally housed rodents. Other equipment is being put in place to control the spread of pathogens.
2. Rodents coming to the Communicore building from non-approved sources (see website for list of approved vendors) will be quarantined for six weeks in semi-rigid isolators at the investigator's expense (see website for charges).
3. Rodents that tested positive for excluded pathogens will be quarantined.
4. Rodents that leave the facility and return will be quarantined/isolated in the experimental room.
5. We have received financial support for embryo rederivation for 2003. Therefore, if your mouse has been infected, you can still preserve your rodent lines through rederivation.
6. Rodents under quarantine are subject to a 20% surcharge.

To help you better understand this program a Rodent Pathogen Control seminar is scheduled for 10:00 am, January 9, 03 at the McKnight Brain Institute DeWeese auditorium. We hope to see you there.

## New Policies

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

### Use of Automatic Watering in Animal Care Services

Animal Care Services provides water to rodents through the use of automatic watering systems in the Brain Institute Animal Facility and the SPF facility located in the Communicore Animal Facility. The water quality is regularly monitored in each of these systems. We place water bottles, in addition to the automatic watering, in cages of newly weaned rodents or those new to the facility for one week at no charge. Otherwise, there is a \$1.00 per bottle charge for each water bottle change. There is no extra fee for the water bottles used for animals in the conventional facilities. The fee for applying water for therapeutic use may be waived if this service is under the direction of an ACS veterinarian. If you want a water bottle used for providing water to rodents in the Brain Institute or the Communicore SPF facility, please submit a requisition to the ACS office using the "*Animal Care Services Husbandry Special Services Request*" form located on the ACS web site (<http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/>) under forms. If you have questions about the automatic watering systems, please contact Dr. Battles at 2-2978.

**Effective date of this policy – January 21, 2003.**

### Standardization of Rodent Bedding

Animal Care Services has completed the renovation of the cage wash facility in the Communicore Animal Facility. The tunnel washer automatically dries and fills the cages with corncob bedding. Corncob bedding is the standard bedding for rodents in all ACS facilities. We will be able to provide other bedding material on request for an additional fee based on time and materials used. This service can be requested on the "*Husbandry Special Services Request*" form located on the ACS web site (<http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/>).

**Effective date of this policy – December 20, 2002.**

## Policy Changes/Clarifications

### Access to Infectious Disease Isolation

The newly renovated Infectious Disease Isolation unit will become operational Jan 6, 02. Beginning January 13, 2003 the Infectious Disease Isolation unit will be locked down. Access will be provided after successfully passing an Infectious Disease Isolation auto tutorial and after undergoing a practicum with the unit's Manager. This auto tutorial will be posted on the website shortly.

## Animal Use Protocols & ACS Veterinary Consultations

Animal Care Services has assumed complete protocol consultation administrative control on 10/3/02. All protocols are sent to [vconsult@grove.ufl.edu](mailto:vconsult@grove.ufl.edu). From there, ACS begins the consultation process and tracks each protocol from the day it is e-mailed to vconsult to the day it is submitted to the IACUC. The average consultation review time has been 7.2 days. This takes into account some protocols that take longer than usual, which require additional attention.

## Legislative News

### Rescheduling of Buprenorphine from Schedule V to Schedule III

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has rescheduled buprenorphine from a Schedule V narcotic to a Schedule III narcotic under the Controlled Substances Act (CSA)

#### Explanation of Schedule III drugs:

1. Have a potential for abuse less than the drugs or other substances in schedules I and II.
2. Have a currently accepted medical use in treatment in the United States.
3. Abuse of the drug or other substance may lead to moderate or low physical dependence or high psychological dependence.
4. Must be stored in a safe or steel cabinet (see <http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/21cfr/cfr/1301/a1#a1>)

For more information on the scheduled drug requirements see Title 21 CFR, Part 1300-1399  
<http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/21cfr/cfr/index.html>

## USDA NEWS

### USDA 2001 Animal Welfare Report Released

"Nov 14 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture has released the Animal Welfare Report for fiscal year 2001. It reports that the number of lab animals covered by the Animal Welfare Act (AWA) and needed for research in the U.S. has declined by about 50,000 since last year, representing a drop of 3.9%. The number of cats needed declined by 11%, and the number of non-human primates declined by 14.2%. The number of dogs needed for research increased by 0.8%. Trace back audits of Class B dealers continue to be successful, with the USDA reporting a 96% trace back rate and finding – again – no evidence of pet theft. The vast majority of animals – about 91% – experienced no or only momentary pain and distress (such as an injection) or were given anesthesia and analgesics to relieve discomfort.

Approximately 96% of all animals that were needed for research in 2001 (excluding invertebrates, marine and freshwater animals, birds and fruit flies) were rats and mice. NABR estimates that 30 million rats and mice are bred for research each year. The following chart provides a breakdown of the remaining 4%:

Dogs	70,082	0.22%
Cats	22,755	0.07%
Primates	49,382	0.16%

Guinea Pigs	256,193	0.82%
Hamsters	167,231	0.54%
Rabbits	267,351	0.86%
Sheep	26,236	0.08%
Pigs	60,253	0.19%
Other farm animals	75,169	0.24%
Other animals	242,251	0.78%”

## Miscellaneous

### Animal Awareness Seminar and Rodent Workshop Times

The Animal Awareness Seminar is scheduled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 10:00am. Most seminars will take place in Room 101A (the DeWeese Auditorium) at the McKnight Brain Institute. Attendance to this seminar is required before access to the animal facilities is granted.

The Rodent Workshop is offered the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month 8:00 am – 11:00 am (procedures, injections, etc.) and Noon – 3:00 pm (aseptic surgery training). In addition, Dr. Perret-Gentil will provide more specialized surgical training upon request, usually at the conclusion of the aseptic surgery session. He may be contacted at 392-0672 or [mperret@ufl.edu](mailto:mperret@ufl.edu).

To register for the seminar or workshop go to <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/index.htm>.

### Animal Ordering Arrival Notification

In order to serve you better, we will notify you by email, when your animal order arrives. Please provide the appropriate email address, in the contact section on our animal order form. Animal orders placed by Wednesday 4:00 pm will arrive the next week. Orders placed after Wednesday 4:00 pm will arrive the following week. Rush orders are assessed an additional fee.

### Use of Chemical Grade Drugs in Animals

The use of chemical grade drugs is generally not an accepted practice for administering drugs to research animals. Commercially prepared drugs indicating the active compound, manufacturer and date of expiration should be generally used in animals unless it is specified and approved in the Animal Care & Use protocol.

### Overcrowded Rodent Cage Problems

On June 15, 02 the *Rodent Cage Overcrowding* Policy was put in place. We are still finding overcrowded cages. Please note that a charge will be incurred against the Investigator's encumbrance for cages that are not corrected on time (see <http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/index.htm> for full explanation of this policy).

### New Surgical Services Charges

Please, visit the website (<http://www.health.ufl.edu/acs/index.htm>) for the new Surgical Services charges. The new charges take effect January 1, 2003.