



Animal Resource & UCAR E-Newsletter

JUNE 2, 2010

VOLUME SPRING 2010

The University of Rochester is committed to maintaining the highest standards of care for animals used in research, education and training. Please follow the link for additional information about reporting animal welfare concerns and the responsibilities of the institution to respond to these concerns

<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/ucar/animalconcerns.htm>.

MICROISOLATOR TECHNOLOGY TIPS

NEVER bring a cart into or out of a room, **NEVER** wear your lab coat, hat or sweater in an MIT room, **NEVER** take water bottles or tag holders out of the original container without using MIT, **ALWAYS** wear the protective sleeves, and **ALWAYS** use Clidox.

Contact the Animal Resource Office (5-2651) if you have questions regarding Microisolator Technology.

Do your rodents visit your laboratory?

Remember to turn the water bottle around during travel to prevent water leakage into the cage. Return the water bottle to its original position when you return the cage to the rack or shelf.

KMRB Vivarium Mouse Euthanasia Service

The Animal Resource now offers a free mouse euthanasia service designed for "cull" mice (e.g. retired breeders, surplus offspring) from which you will not need to harvest tissue. These mice must be free of hazards.

With this new service, research staff will be able to drop off cages of KMRB mice in KMRB vivarium room B9817 for CO2 euthanasia in the new vivarium euthanasia chamber. The "Smart Box" euthanizes up to 90 cages at a time and will eliminate your technicians' or grad students' time spent inefficiently and inconveniently euthanizing cull mice "one cage at a time" with the existing procedure room cage-top CO2 equipment.

This new equipment will be only be operated by the vivarium staff once or twice a day and is only available for mice housed in the KMRB. After dropping off the cages please be sure to remind your staff to deactivate cage cards to stop accruing per diem charges and place a water bottle on the cage. We may add another chamber in the SMD after we evaluate our experience in the KMRB. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Animal Resource Office.

Veterinary Care - Recommendations for Husbandry of Severely Immunocompromised Mice

The Animal Resource recommends the following special diet and water for severely immunocompromised mice such as NOG, SCID, RAG-2, Athymic Nude and Beige mice. Immunodeficient mice also require strict attention to Microisolator Technology.

The following practices are available to investigators by submission of a special request form to the Animal Resource Office.

1. Autoclaved acid water (pH 2.5-3.0) in sterile water bottles changed once weekly. This prevents a biofilm or overgrowth of *Pseudomonas sp* (and other bacteria) in the water bottle.
2. Feed irradiated TEST DIET SULFA TRIM (0.124% Sulfadiazine/0.025% Trimethoprim – <http://www.testdiet.com/PDF/5TXT.pdf> mouse chow. The vivarium has this diet available on inventory.

Please be sure to incorporate this information into your UCAR protocol as a Vivarium recommended husbandry practice for severely immunocompromised mice.

VIVARIUM POLICES TO REMEMBER:

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is required when entering animal housing rooms. Specific information is posted on room doors or entry areas.

Video equipment/cell phones with cameras are not permitted in the Vivarium. Contact the Animal Resource Office if you have questions regarding this policy.



Open-toed shoes or flip flops are not permitted in the Vivarium for safety reasons.



A copy of the **University's General Transport Policy** is available in the Animal Resource Office. Please refresh your memory about approved transport areas and elevators.

OLAW Updates NIH Guidance

Instructions for Completion and Technical Evaluation of the Vertebrate Animal Section (VAS) in NIH Contract Proposals were published in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts on April 19, 2010, [NOT-OD-10-049](#). The Notice is intended "to clarify the information that must be included in a separate section of the Technical Proposal titled the Vertebrate Animal Section (VAS) of contract proposals for biomedical and behavioral Research and Development (R&D), research training, and biological testing activities that use live vertebrate animals.

Guidance on **Confirming Appropriate Charges to NIH Awards during Periods of Noncompliance for Activities Involving Animals** was published in the NIH Guide for Grants and Contracts on April 15, 2010, [NOT-OD-10-081](#). The Notice "provides additional clarification in reference to Notice [NOT-OD-07-044](#) regarding the grantee's responsibilities when animal activities have been conducted which do not meet the terms and conditions of grant award."

Questions, suggestions or comments related to any of these notices may be emailed to olaw@od.nih.gov.

Questions & Answers

Q - If I receive an e-mail from DLAM about overcrowded mouse or rat breeder cages and I wean them myself, am I out of compliance with the Mouse and Rat Density Policies?

If you receive an e-mail or phone call that you have overcrowded rodent breeder cages, you are not compliant with the UCAR Mouse and Rat Density Policy. [The Mouse Cage](#) and [Rat Cage Density](#) Policies are on the UCAR website. Overcrowded rodent cages are a significant animal welfare concern, considered non-compliance and tracked by UCAR. In general, rodents can be weaned by 21 days of age. The Policies state that mouse pups must be weaned by 28 days, and rat pups must be weaned by 23 days.

Additionally, unless approved in your UCAR protocol; **multiple adults with more** than one litter in a cage are considered noncompliance. Labs that do not have overcrowded breeder cages, visit their rooms at least twice a week and some visit everyday. **Re-check weaned** animals a week after weaning. If you miss-sex at weaning and mixed sexes are housed together, you will have another litter.

Jackson Labs has a free colony management program available for download on their website. Mosaic Vivarium is another breeding program that you can purchase. Regardless of your tracking methods, no program will replace visits to room to review your breeder cages and weaned siblings.

DLAM (5-2653) provides colony management as a fee for service for Investigators. If you would like additional training in rodent colony management, contact DLAM.

Please submit any questions to UCAR@urmc.rochester.edu and your question may be in the next edition of the Newsletter!

Planning on using hazardous materials in the Vivarium?

The Animal Resource annually certifies rooms for the use of hazardous (chemical, infectious and radioactive) materials in animals that are housed in the Vivarium. Two weeks prior to administering hazardous agents to laboratory animals you must notify the Animal Resource of your intentions (Notification of Intent to Use Hazardous Substances). Additionally, if the hazard is administered in food or water you are required to submit special request forms, use special cage cards and/or labels.

Laboratory carts can not be brought into 1-way zones (KMRB vivarium) and 1-way rodent housing rooms as they are difficult to sanitize and could transport murine pathogens

Duration of stay in labs – rodents, birds, fish or amphibians **can not be housed** in a laboratory for more than 24 hours. This is a PHS Policy.



To Mop or not to Mop –Effective May 1, 2010 research staff will no longer be required to mop in and out of barrier maintained rodent areas unless required by users of the room. Veterinary, vivarium and UCAR staff will continue to mop in and out per usual. The mop and bucket of disinfectant will be available for anyone else wishing to use it.

UCAR Required Training

UCAR adopted the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI) on-line program for basic, species specific and surgery training. On January 1, 2010, all new Investigators and staff will be required to complete the CITI courses (www.citiprogram.org), 1) basic training; working with an IACUC; 2) species specific training; 3) reducing pain and distress (if working with rats and mice) and 4) aseptic surgery course (if applicable), 5) species specific courses.

Courses that are available in Blackboard are Microisolator Technology (online and hands-on), rodent colony management and rodent euthanasia training ([Blackboard](#)). If you have any questions regarding training requirements contact the UCAR Office x5-1693.

APHIS Animal Care Announces Web Site Improvements

The Animal Care program of the US Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) yesterday launched a new and improved website in an effort to provide stakeholders with the best and most easily accessible information. APHIS Deputy Administrator for Animal Care Chester Gipson said, "Our main goal in revising the website is to provide you and others with the latest news from Animal Care, as well as more information about our leadership on issues of humane care and the treatment of animals.

The website address remains the same (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/), although some items may have moved locations. Please contact Tom Chao (Email: tom.chao@aphis.usda.gov / Phone: 301-734-4980) if you have any questions or experience trouble locating a resource previously accessed on the Animal Care website.

APHIS Plans to Post Information on AWA Enforcement Actions

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Administrator Cindy Smith announced last week that the agency intends to issue press releases concerning the outcome of enforcement actions it has taken in response to violations of the Animal Welfare Act (AWA). Beginning in June, APHIS will

Contact us:

Phone

AR 5-2651
UCAR 5-1693

We're on the Web!

<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/vivarium/>
<http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/ucar/>

issue monthly press releases "that include case summaries where the agency is charging people and businesses with violations of the AWA. The press releases will also provide summary information about closed enforcement cases and penalties levied." The related APHIS news release is posted at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom/content/2010/04/aw_enforcement.shtml

Vivarium Access

Access to the Vivarium is for **authorized individuals only**. You must have completed all of the UCAR mandatory training and be listed on an approved UCAR protocol to gain card-swipe access.

Required UCAR Training: Animal Resource Orientation; Facility Tour; CITI Training (www.citiprogram.org) and Blackboard Courses (<http://bb.urmc.rochester.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>).

Contact the UCAR Office if you have any questions regarding training.

UCAR On-line Protocol Submission

Regular training sessions for TOPAZ are now complete. If you have a 36 month review, new submission and/or an APR that you need to submit and you haven't attended a TOPAZ training session, please contact Jean Defendorf or the UCAR Office.



Recent Update - News from ILAR

The National Research Council invites you to a public briefing at **11:00am, June 8, 2010** on the newly updated Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, an internationally accepted primary reference on the humane treatment of animals in research, testing, and teaching. Last updated in 1996, this new edition of the Guide integrates recently published data, scientific principles, and expert opinion to recommend practices for responsible laboratory animal use. Committee chair Janet

Garber will discuss new features of the Guide, including expanded coverage of the ethics of laboratory animal use; components of effective animal care and use Programs; and new guidelines for the housing, environment, and enrichment of terrestrial and aquatic animals, and for veterinary and clinical care. Please join us!

The Guide will be available June 2, 2010 from www.nap.edu.

Please register to attend by June 4, 2010 by following the link below:

<http://dels.nas.edu/Upcoming-Event/Public-Briefing-updated-Guide/ILAR-K-07-01-A>