



Animal Resource & UCAR E-Newsletter

JANUARY 15, 2010

VOLUME WINTER 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.

Occupational Health Program for Researchers, Staff and Students – July 1, 2010

Beginning July 1, 2010, employees with laboratory animal contact will begin enrollment in the University's occupational health program. The occupational health and medical surveillance program is required by NIH as a condition of funding (Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals – ILAR/NRC – National Academy Press – 1996). The program is risk based where employees handling animals with high zoonotic potential or dosed with experimental, infectious or chemical agents meet with occupational health professionals and/or follow hazard-specific protocols. The majority of the employees handling lab animals are considered lower risk and will be completing an annual health questionnaire to be submitted and reviewed confidentially by U.H.S. nurses. There will be no charge to the investigator for this program. We will implement the program so everyone will be enrolled by 2011 when Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (www.aaalac.org) returns for our accreditation renewal site visit.

Activating or Deactivating Cage Cards

When activating or deactivating cage cards please use only **ONE** of the following forms to do so:

Activation Formats	Deactivation Formats
On-line Submission	On-line Submission
Paper Form (found in the animal rooms) and place in the black box	Paper Form (found in the animal rooms) and place in the black box
	Detach the barcode from the cage card and place in the black box

SMD Pharmacy and Narcotic Cabinets

Lenora Durr, CphT (Inpatient Department of Pharmacy) will be working directly with animal laboratories that use any type of controlled substances to ensure that all animal laboratories are working in compliance when working with controlled substances.

All investigators who use any type of controlled substances are required to have a double door/double locked narcotic cabinet that is secured to the wall. If your lab has such a cabinet with double doors and double locks, you are fine. You will no longer be allowed to keep controlled substances in a tackle box (locked or unlocked) in your desk drawer.

Please provide Lenora with the location of your lab or labs and a name of a contact person for any issues that may arise. Her extension is 3-1921 if you have any questions.

UCAR Required Training – New 2010

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; 2) species specific training; 3) reducing pain and distress (if working with rats and mice) and 4) aseptic surgery course (if applicable).

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.



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

Species include: amphibians, cats, dogs, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, non-human primates, rabbits, rats and swine. Training media is available in the UCAR office for those individuals that are working with ferrets and chickens.

All staff working with non-human primates must complete the CITI species specific training as well as the UCAR Primate Safety Training (available in the UCAR Office). Additionally, the Non-Human Primate Anesthetist Course is offered by DLAM for any individuals that anesthetize monkeys. This course includes a final exam and hands-on demonstration.

Microisolator Technology (online and hands-on), rodent colony management and rodent euthanasia training courses are available in [Blackboard](#).

If you have any questions regarding training requirements contact the UCAR Office x5-1693.

EH&S and UCAR approval for protocols undergoing 36 Month Review

If your animal protocol includes the use of hazards (biological, infectious, chemical and/or radiation), Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) and the University's Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) will review the document for health and safety concerns for Vivarium and research personnel.

Please remember, the UCAR protocol has an expiration date and the protocol should be submitted by no less than 60 days prior to the expiration date to allow UCAR and EH&S to approve all activities described. If UCAR approval lapses and there are animals in house, those animals will be placed on a holding protocol and OPPRA will be notified.

Helpful web links:

IBC: <http://www.safety.rochester.edu/ibc/>

EH&S: <http://www.safety.rochester.edu/>

Lab Safety Training: <http://www.safety.rochester.edu/ih/ihlabhome.html>

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.

WEB-Based Submission of Animal Protocols

Beginning January 1, 2010, all new submissions of animal protocols, and all 36-month reviews, must be submitted using Topaz Enterprise. In order to submit a protocol, Principle Investigators who have not already done so **must attend** a TOPAZ training session and obtain an account. If a PI wants a lab manager or administrative staff member to have privileges to create and edit, or modify an on-line protocol they must also attend a training session.

All new faculty members who will be using animals in research must also submit their protocols on-line. Each faculty member must have an account in the active directory (domain name and password) in order to do this. Domain name requests are submitted on-line to ISD by individual Department Administrators. Arrangements can be made for training prior to moving to the University by contacting Jean Defendorf (5-1693). TOPAZ training dates:

Thursday, January 21, 1:00 PM 2-7608-Classroom

Monday, January 25, 1:00 PM 2-7539-Classroom

Wed., January 27, 10:00 AM 3-6408, K-307

[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.

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/>

Animals Ordering Updates - Mutant Mouse Regional Resource Center (MMRRC)

All animal orders must go through the Animal Resource Purchasing Coordinator's Office. If you want to obtain mice from this vendor, contact Dan DeMagistris (x5-2654) to place your order. You must be listed on the UCAR protocol to place animal orders.

Regulatory Updates

The Animal Resource Management and UCAR have submitted the necessary regulatory documents to various federal agencies that review, accredit and register the University of Rochester. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), The United States Public Health Service (PHS) and the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC) all received annual reports that detail any changes in the University's Animal Care and Use Program.

NEW on December 2, 2009, all USDA Research Facility Inspection Reports will be posted on USDA's website after 21 days when the final report is issued (http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/publications_and_reports.shtml).

Maintenance of Rodent Breeding Colonies – Are your cages over crowded?

Investigator's rodent colony management is described in the UCAR protocol if the research project includes breeding mice or rats in-house. [The Mouse Cage](#) and [Rat Cage Density](#) Policies are on the UCAR website. Overcrowded rodent cages are a significant animal welfare concern. 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. If you receive notice from DLAM that you have pups older than the 28 days (mice) and 23 days (rats), you are out of compliance with the density policies. UCAR tracks overcrowded rodent cages. Additionally, unless approved in your UCAR protocol; multiple adults with more than one litter in a cage is 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 to confirm gender. If you miss-sex at weaning and the mixed sexes in a cage, 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 the visits to room to review your breeder cages.

UCAR will be contacting Investigators that have more than 12 overcrowded cages/year or greater than 2% of their cage population in the next few months to discuss the management of their breeding colony. DLAM (5-2653) provides colony management as a fee for service for Investigators.

Carbon Dioxide Euthanasia

A common method used to euthanize rodents and bird is carbon dioxide narcosis. If using this method to euthanize rodents or bird, you are required to complete the Rodent Euthanasia Training Course in Blackboard and perform an approved secondary physical method to verify that death has occurred.

UCAR has established the following guidelines with respect to CO2 euthanasia equipment and procedures.

1. All euthanasia chambers must be transparent so that all animals can be observed during the process.

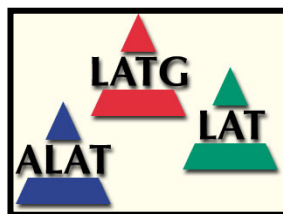
2. A CO2 euthanasia SOP must be developed and posted for each location where CO2 euthanasia is performed. The SOP must meet UCAR guidelines.
3. Flow to the euthanasia chamber **must be calibrated** to displace at least 20% - 70% of the chamber volume per minute in your set up. Your settings will vary for different sized chambers. The recommended way to insure that the system is achieving appropriate flow is by using a flow meter. Alternately, if you are using a 2-stage regulator, flow should be fairly reproducible for a given pressure at the second stage. You can use a flow meter to determine the appropriate pressure range that allows your regulator to deliver the appropriate volume of CO2. If you wish to calibrate your system in another way, please state clearly how it will be done, and provide all calculations.

According to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW – the compliance arm of PHS), an unintended recovery after apparent death for CO2 (e.g., in necropsy coolers) is considered serious noncompliance and must be reported to OLAW.

Please review the following guidance document on the OLAW website (<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-02-062.html>).

Know Your Animal Dietary Supplements – Are they free of microbial contamination and wholesome?

The Vivarium feeds commercially acquired and defined laboratory animal diets to minimize research variables and maintain optimal animal health. Please always remember to submit a special request for veterinary review if you propose to supplement your lab animal's diet. Some diet supplements such as peanut butter and sunflower seeds are very high in fat and deficient in calcium. Bacterial and fungal contamination may also be detrimental especially for immunodeficient mice. These variables may make it difficult to replicate your work. Please be sure to consider any potential adverse effect of dietary supplements and always acquire Animal Resource permission before adding anything to the your lab animal's diet.



AALAS Certification Update: Job Well Done!

Animal Care Staff: Dan DeMagistris, RLAT.

DLAM veterinary technicians: Robin Westcott, LVT, RLAT.