



# Animal Resource & UCAR E-Newsletter

MARCH 1, 2011

VOLUME WINTER 2011

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>).

**MOVING ANIMALS** – Cages of rodents can not be moved between animal rooms without submission of the [Animal Movement Proposal Form](#) and approval. This is not a new policy. **Please review the Vivarium Website for up-to-date information.**

**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

## Federal Register Invites Comments on the 2011 Guide for the Care & Use of Laboratory Animals

The ILAR 2011 8th Edition of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals will most likely be adopted by NIH for implementation by March 2012. Public comment regarding adoption and implementation by NIH was recently announced in the Federal Register. To submit comments within 30 days of the February 24 Federal Register notice go to the following link for instructions -

<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2011/pdf/2011-4172.pdf>

Substantive changes impacting the U of R include new requirements for caging trio breeding groups of mice, social housing of social species considered the default and significantly enhanced animal enrichment program expectations. A pdf copy of the 2011 Guide may be downloaded at

<http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/Guide-for-the-Care-and-Use-of-Laboratory-Animals.pdf>.

## Jeff Wyatt Elected as Officer to AAALAC International Council on Accreditation

The Association for the Assessment & Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) International recently elected Jeff Wyatt (University of Rochester Attending Veterinarian and Animal Resource Executive Director) to be a Council on Accreditation Section Leader. As section leader, Jeff will oversee the accreditation review of new applicants as well as currently accredited units totaling over 860 biomedical research institutions in 34 countries. Over 30% of new applications for AAALAC accreditation are coming from Asia (primarily China, India and Korea). Jeff's work with AAALAC helps promote the humane care and use of laboratory animals globally as well as in Rochester. AAALAC will be performing the triennial site visit of the University of Rochester animal program and facilities this

## Pharmaceutical Grade Anesthetics, Analgesics and Euthanasia Agents

Is pentobarbital difficult to obtain? Is urethane unavailable? All compounds used in live animals must be pharmaceutical grade unless the Investigator justifies that the compound is not available in a pharmaceutical grade. Recently, SMD Pharmacy assisted an Investigator by preparing Urethane. Please review the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare's FAQs <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/olaw/faqs.htm#f4> and the UCAR Proper Preparation, Usage and Storage of Medical Material Policy.

## 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.



summer. Jeff will soon be visiting your animal labs to help us all be best prepared.

## New Rodent Surgery Workshop

DLAM and UCAR have developed a rodent surgery workshop. The workshop is required for all new hires that will perform surgery. We encourage all rodent surgeons to attend a class.

Our first workshop will focus on aseptic technique which will last one hour. Additionally, we have two more workshop topics available. Aseptic technique, Anesthesia and Analgesia plus a recovery surgery workshop. Please contact [UCAR@urmc.rochester.edu](mailto:UCAR@urmc.rochester.edu) if you would like to attend or would like additional information.

## Expanded Enrichment for Monkeys

The 2011 edition of *The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* which defines NIH's conditions for funding all research grants requires social housing as the "default" for social species (not just nonhuman primates, but all social species) except when the research requires single housing (as determined by UCAR) or in cases of well documented social incompatibility or veterinary need (e.g. a contagious or debilitating health condition as determined by the Attending Veterinarian).

Animals should not be excluded from consideration for social housing based on presence of surgical instrumentation and whether animals are food or water scheduled. In addition, age and gender considerations alone or together do not provide reasons enough to exclude animals from consideration for social housing. The veterinary staff has re-evaluated our pairing procedure and developed a thoughtful, science-based approach to objectively evaluating compatibility in NHPs.

We are also updating and improving our program with new forms of environmental enrichment. We have purchased additional flavors of monkey biscuits that fit within puzzle feeders to supplement current diets. We are in the blueprint process for developing a Play Place area within the vivarium to allow monkeys to express more species-typical behavior in social groups in a larger setting. This Play Place will incorporate tree branches & natural substrates and will

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



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.

#### **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 with all the required PPE, and  
ALWAYS use Clidox.

provide a larger area for initiating social introductions which will likely help us in our goal to successfully form stable group housed primates.

In addition, the Animal Resource is hiring a cross-species Behavior Management Technologist this summer. This person will assist us in developing our social housing and environmental enrichment program for all species at the University, from mice to monkeys. We look forward to working with you as we implement novel approaches and ideas to move our cross/species enrichment program forward.

**Barcodes** - Remember to activate and deactivate your cage cards on a timely basis. Not activating and deactivating cage cards will incur more per diems. **Please do not write on or block the barcodes.**

#### **New Incubators in the KMRB**

DLAM will soon deploy incubators to each procedure room in the KMRB vivarium. The incubators will provide after-hours care for mice affected by water system delivery malfunctions. Specifically, the incubators will allow mice not yet completely recovered to remain in a warmed environment overnight when wet cages are discovered late in the afternoon or on the weekends. DLAM has extensively tested the incubators to determine the appropriate settings. While Vivarium and DLAM technicians will primarily use the incubators and provide veterinary care for wet mice, the incubators will have signage indicating proper use in the event research staff encounters a wet cage.

Please always submit an Animal Observation Form to the Animal Resource Office if you place a cage in an incubator so that DLAM can observe the mice, provide any necessary care, and return the cage to the rack when indicated.

SMD and CVRI users will also see incubators in procedural space in those vivariums in the coming months as we continue to improve our ability to provide supportive care to mice.

**Check it out** - A study to reduce stress and anxiety in laboratory mice ([www.nc3rs.org.uk/new.s.asp?id=1457](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/new.s.asp?id=1457)).



**AAALAC will return for an accreditation visit in summer 2011.**

**Announcements** pertaining to mice that are available from investigators here at the U of R will be sent out once a week (Wednesday).

**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/>

## Got Isoflurane?

As part of the Animal Resource's commitment to expanding services to make research at UR more efficient, isoflurane vaporizers will be installed in each procedure room of the KMRB vivarium over the next several months. The vaporizers have already been purchased, and we are currently in the process of installing oxygen and scavenger lines into each procedure room. These vaporizers can be used free of charge, although investigators will need to supply their own isoflurane. To complement these shared resources in the KMRB, investigators in the SMD can reserve an isoflurane vaporizer from DLAM for use in SMD procedural rooms without cost. Anesthesia machines that are taken to labs will still incur the same rental charge. DLAM provides free training for researchers - please call the Animal Resources Office at x5-2651 to set up an appointment. Remember, follow your UCAR protocol for use of anesthetics and analgesics.

## Symptoms of Laboratory Animal Allergies

Allergies to laboratory animals are often nasal symptoms, itchy eyes and rashes. In rodents, the allergen protein is urinary origin and in rabbits it contained in the fur and dander and sometimes saliva and/or urine. In guinea pigs, urine is the main allergen with dander, fur, and saliva contributing to the problem. In guinea pigs, urine is the major contributor followed by dander, fur and saliva. In cage the allergen is produced in the oil glands of the skin and coats the hair shafts. Exposure to birds can cause nasal symptoms. Efforts to prevent allergen exposure and reduce the frequency of sensitization in animal workers require strict work practices and consistent use of PPE. Housing animals in filter-top cages, working in well-ventilated areas, and using ventilated hoods for soiled bedding disposal will minimize exposure to animal allergens.

If you think you have allergies to laboratory animals, please contact University Health Services (5-1164).