Welcome our new LAR Animal Care Techs!

LAR would like you to welcome our three new animal care technicians—Lindsay, Cassie, and Kyle!

Lyndsay comes to us from the University of Alaska Fairbanks where she had been taking care of their lab animals for 9 years while also training sled dogs, working on various wildlife projects including caribou capture, and finishing up her Master's degree in Wildlife Biology and Conservation.

Cassie comes to us from the MIP lab here on campus where she was working with deer and mice while also obtaining her Master’s in Natural Sciences. Previously she worked with wolf hybrids at a local sanctuary which was a natural fit for her since she grew up watching her Grandfather manage the red wolf rehabilitation program for the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Kyle comes to us from the University of Northern Colorado where he obtained his BS in Biology with an emphasis in Ecology and Evolution. While at UNC, Kyle competed in Cross Country and Track for 4 years and worked with rattlesnakes and mice assisting in projects focused around resistance to venom in different populations of wild mice.

Check out their pictures and work Bios on our Employee Wall!
CSU Tech Week Festivities!

A whole week of activities were planned for the Lab Animal Resources group! Monday started out with a breakfast of Panera bagels and coffee and the introduction of a couple contests that were going on through the week. The first contest was “Guess Who?” where participants had to guess who belonged to personal statements provided by management staff and vets. Statements consisted of fun things like “I performed hula during the halftime show at the 1995 Pro Bowl at Aloha Stadium” and “In college I was voted most likely to be arrested”-good times were had by all and we now know some of our colleagues way better than we wanted to!

Another contest that was introduced was “Where’s Waldo”-our training coordinator set up an animal room full of “mistakes” regarding husbandry, animal welfare, and equipment and participants had limited time slots to go in and find all of the wrong things that they could find. Things like expired feed, “dead” animals, dirty cages, cage flood, and missed vet rechecks are just a sample of the possible findings. A tiny little picture of Waldo was taped to the wall near the floor in one corner—but not a single person found him!

Tuesday consisted of donuts and hot chocolate in the morning and a scheduled CE that afternoon with a fun and interesting talk about Giant Flemish rabbits from the researcher using them-cookies were provided of course.

Wednesday was our annual Chili Contest-5 volunteers brought in their favorite chili recipes and everyone got to enjoy good food and then vote on their favorites.

Thursday we provided a Qdoba lunch bar and our Assistant VPR joined us to thank the staff for all of their hard work and dedication to our animals and the research community.

Friday rounded off the week with a Thermal Camera Picture Contest, Root Beer Floats and the handing out of prizes for the various contests. It was a really great week and the management staff had a great time showing the techs just how much we appreciate everything they do for us and our animals!
CSU Animal Care Program Technician of the Year Award!!

To recognize the individuals that work with animals on a regular basis at CSU, the Vice President for Research is soliciting nomination for the CSU Animal Care Program Technician of the Year. This award will be presented to the technician that has demonstrated a positive attitude, high level of performance, and promotes laboratory animal science and education. The nomination form can be found on LAR's homepage and should be completed and submitted along with at least one letter of reference to Marty Welsch at marty.welsch@colostate.edu by March 11, 2015. Applications will be reviewed and the award presented in conjunction with Celebrate CSU in April.

AAALAC Site Visit—March 4–6, 2015

CSU’s 3-year site visit is rapidly approaching and we are working hard to have everyone prepared for a quick and painless process! Here are the Top 10 AAALAC Questions:

1. Show me your records.
   a. Personnel training records
   b. OHSP information
   c. Veterinary medical records
   d. Veterinary contact info
   e. SOPs
   f. Mechanisms for reporting concerns
   g. Emergency plans

2. What happens when you find a sick animal?

3. What PPE do you use and why?

4. Are you enrolled in OHSP?

5. What type of training have you received?

6. What is the endpoint of the study and how are animals euthanized?

7. Describe the post-procedure care.

8. How do you prepare personnel and the animals for surgery?

9. Have you read the IACUC approved protocol?

10. Tell me about your research.

For more information visit the RICRO-IACUC website
How to Age Mouse Pups
Amber Nicholson LATG

Aging mouse pups correctly is very important. The gestation period of the most common strains of mice is 21 days, and the weaning date of these strains is also 21 days. The doe can get pregnant as soon as the day after she gives birth, which means that she can have a second litter the day after the first litter is due to be weaned. Mouse pups reach sexual maturity at 5-8 weeks, but they can get pregnant as early as 23 days old. For these reasons, it is very important to determine the exact date the pups were born.

When they are born, mouse pups are blood red, hairless, and their eyes and ears are closed. By the next day, they will be slightly less red and they will have a prominent milk spot. It is important to make sure all of the pups have a milk spot to determine that they are nursing and receiving milk. On day 2, their ears begin to appear as nubs. They will still have a milk spot, but darker strains will begin to show pigment. The ears begin to come away from the head on day 3, but they will still look like round nubs. They will be fully developed and flatten out on day 4, usually sticking straight out from their head. The skin will start to become darker, or in white mice, it will become a lighter pink. On day 5, the ears will be fully pointed back and the milk spot will be gone. By day 6, colored fuzz will start to appear on the back of the neck, and on day 7, they will be covered in fuzz. Their belly will begin to grow fur on day 8. On day 9, the females will begin to show nipples, which will appear as little spots or dents. Their eyes will open on day 11, and their teeth will begin to erupt. They may begin to eat solid food on day 12, but they will not be able to live on solid food because they still need the nutrients from their mother's milk.

The next 9 days will be spent growing and learning until they are weaned at 21 days. Wet or dry food pellets can be placed in the bottom of the cage to help them learn to eat. If they are small at 21 days, they can stay with the mother as long as the mother does not have another litter.

Contact us if you have any questions about aging your mouse pups!
Training Tidbits from Denise Ostmeyer

Enhanced Orientation Procedures

LAR has recently beefed up our training requirements for new research staff to gain key card access to our vivaria. We have implemented a few small changes to ensure that everyone using LAR’s facilities are properly trained.

The changes include:

- New staff will be asked to read some basic Standard Operating Procedures. They are currently available at Marie’s desk, and will be posted on-line soon.
- LAR staff will provide a tour/orientation to satellite facilities (previously only done for Painter Center) prior to granting key card access. Tours can be scheduled by contacting Marie Phillips at the front desk (1-7364) or Ken Hines (1-5227).
- After gaining key card access a reminder e-mail will be sent to cover key points such as:
  - We ask that you do not leave dirty caging behind in animal rooms. Dirty cages should be transported to the dirty-side cage-wash area. There are exceptions for when dirty cages should be left for LAR staff to handle such as BSL-3 or CWD rooms and any other situation where autoclaving is necessary. If you have questions please ask an LAR employee.
  - Report any sick or injured animals to the LAR veterinary staff. For emergencies, call the on-call vet 24/7 at 970-566-3414. For non-emergencies, you can call the number above, e-mail the veterinary staff at LAR_VETS@mail.colostate.edu, or leave a note in the communication log of the room red book.
  - A couple reminders about cage cards - if you need to separate animals (i.e. weaning, or to stop fighting) be sure to place a temporary cage card on the new cage(s), fill out the cage card request form found in the room red book, and turn it in to the animal care supervisor in person or via the file on their office door. If you terminate all animals in a cage, write the termination date on the card and turn it in to the reception desk or the animal care supervisor to stop the per diems for that cage.