In This Issue:
- Business Office Announcements!
- IACUC Protocol Veterinary Consult Procedure Review
- New LAR Employees!
- AAALAC Site Visit Complete
- Are Rats Ticklish?
- Departmental Updates

Business Office Announcements!

Upcoming Blackout Dates for animal deliveries: May 28, June 25, July 2, September 3

We will be putting a hold on receiving animal orders during the weeks of May 28th and September 3rd in observation of University Holidays.

In preparation for closing out Fiscal Year 2018, all animal orders must be placed in eAnimal Ordering by June 6th.

The last delivery date to receive animals this fiscal year will be June 18, 2018. There will be no animals received on June 25th or July 2nd.

You may continue to order animals after June 6th, however, the next available delivery date will be July 9th. If you have a unique situation, please contact monica.rios@colostate.edu to discuss. We strive to cause as little disruption as possible to your ongoing research efforts!

Year End Billing cycle reminders:
We will have two billing periods in June:

1. 5/21-6/20 will upload to Period 12 on 6/25 and post to Kuali the following day. This will consist of all per diems during this period including animal orders and special service charges. We will publish these for review and send our normal reminder to make any changes before 2p on 6/25.

2. 6/21-6/30 will upload to Period 13 on 7/2 and post to Kuali the following day. This will consist of predominantly per diem charges including any residual charges and adjustments not captured in the last billing period. We will not send a reminder for this period, however, you will still have an opportunity to make changes to your cage cards. Please refer to the account change instructions on our website.
Simplified Veterinary Consult Procedure

Procedures that cause more than momentary pain and/or distress require a consultation with an institutional veterinarian prior to submission to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Examples include performing surgery, inducing cancer, introducing infectious agents into animals, restricting normal behaviors for an extended period, administering noxious chemicals, and so on.

The institutional veterinarian, also known as the Attending Veterinarian, is Dr. Lon Kendall, Director of LAR. Dr. Jessica Ayers is the Alternate Attending Veterinarian. The University Veterinarian position has been incorporated into the Attending Veterinarian group as the Associate Attending Veterinarian, Dr. James Owiny.

The veterinary consultation process was changed about 2 years ago in conjunction with this reorganization. In the past, the consultation involved contacting the Director of Laboratory Animal Resources or the University Veterinarian prior to submitting an animal protocol that could potentially result in pain and or distress, but this is no longer necessary. With the new, more efficient process, all you have to do is complete your animal use protocol and submit it in eProtocol. The protocol is routed to Laboratory Animal Resources veterinarians for pre-review, which serves as the consultation component. Comments will be sent back to you via eProtocol, which you should then address prior to the next IACUC meeting.

Protocol submission deadlines are two weeks prior to the next scheduled IACUC meeting, so if you want/need your protocol to be reviewed at next meeting, please submit in a timely manner. If you miss the deadline, the protocol will go to the next month’s meeting, if it does not qualify for designated member review or is called to full committee review.

*If you need any advice during the writing of your protocol, prior to submission, please don’t hesitate to reach out to any of the LAR Veterinarians via email or phone—we are always happy to help you out!

Meet our New-ish LAR Employees!

**Joe Petraccione:** “I was born and raised in upstate New York just outside of Albany and graduated from Syracuse University with a BS in biology. My love of the outdoors (especially mountains) drove me to make the leap across the country to Fort Collins. Even though I now live in Colorado, I am and always will be a diehard New York sports fan. I am passionate about working with animals and am grateful for the experience I am receiving while working with LAR. I’m proud to be a part of the important work of this department and CSU.”

**Orah Johnson:** Orah received her Bachelors degree in Zoology from CSU in 2008. Prior to joining Lab Animal Resources, Orah spent 7 years as a Field Biologist working with raptors, bats and other sensitive species in the
Western Sage-Steppe communities of the United States. Most of her work was focused on assessing impacts of wind energy on avian and bat populations. In addition to this, Orah spent some time at the Denver Downtown Aquarium training animals within the mammals and birds department. In 2014, she had a baby and turned her focus to raising her son. Her love for research and animals has continued with her new role as a Research Associate Technician. Orah lives in Ft. Collins with her husband, son and two dogs. She enjoys the outdoors and spends much of her free time hiking, bird watching, running and reading.

Vinnie Guglielmi:
Hello my name is Vinnie Guglielmi and I am a full time Animal Care Technician for Colorado State University's Laboratory Animal Resources. I am an Illinois native and an Iowa State University alumni. As an animal scientist, I want to explore the potential of using different species as models in a biomedical setting, and aid in the discovery of new treatments for various human and animal diseases. I have only lived in Fort Collins as of January of this year, but I have already made myself at home by exploring the copious amounts of hiking trails and natural forests that surround the lively city. Moving to Colorado has been a great opportunity!

We also have a new group of Student Hourly Workers -who we couldn’t do without! Please welcome Lauren Cary, Ray Perrin, Landon Brown, Melissa Foltz, Kenzie Busick, Kat Dalzell, and Brandon Naysnerski!

AAALAC Site Visit Complete
Our Triennial AAALAC Site Visit took place February 28th-March 2nd and we send out a big thank you to all the researchers and lab managers who put forth a huge effort to allow this visit to go so well! The team plans to recommend CSU for Continuing Full Accreditation, which will discussed and finalized at the May AAALAC Council Meeting. They did provide us with a small list of Suggestions for Improvement and Lon has sent his response regarding our plan for those. We will send out the final decision once we receive it this summer!

Tickling Rats?!
Currently, LAR utilizes social housing and large paperboard tubes as standard enrichment for rats. Within the next few months, LAR animal care technicians are going to be trained in “rat tickling” to improve the husbandry and enrichment portions of the animal care program. Rat tickling mimics the “rough-and-tumble” play that rats participate in with each other, and at ultrasonic levels, their vocalizations are similar to laughter during this activity. German neuroscientists, Jaak Panksepp and Jeffrey Burgdorf discovered that rats are ticklish almost 20 years ago. Their research showed that the rats would remember the areas of their
enclosures where they were tickled, and routinely return to these sites. Research in the years since has shown that rat tickling can improve animal well-being, especially when socially housing rats is not possible. Here are a couple of videos that further explain rat tickling science:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-admRGFVNM
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-84UJpYFRM

LAR will be implementing rat tickling into the animal care program as part of cage change husbandry practices to add a positive affiliation with human handling. Building these bonds with the care technicians will reduce stress and improve the welfare of the rats in LAR’s care. Kate Bruner, LAR’s environmental enrichment and behavior coordinator, will be directly contacting investigators who currently have rats to discuss if rat tickling can be implemented into their ongoing studies.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Kate Bruner, Kate.bruner@colostate.edu

**Departmental Updates**

- New ventilated caging for Bwing!! We are very excited to have our new Allentown IVC arrive this summer, which allows for the social housing of guinea pigs in Bwing-no matter how large they get! 😊

- LAR has taken over husbandry and care of the research and teaching fish in the new Biology building-our animal care staff are really enjoying this new species!

- Plans for the submission of an NIH Shared Instrument Grant to acquire a PET/CT for imaging of small animals. Please contact Lon Kendall if you are interested in participating.