



ANIMAL RESEARCH MATTERS



Prepared and Distributed by the Lifespan Animal Welfare Committee (IACUC), the Office of Research Administration (ORA) and the Central Animal Facility (CAF)

AAALAC

AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs. AAALAC stands for the "Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care."

AAALAC endorses the use of animals to advance medicine and science when there are no non-animal alternatives, and when it is done in an ethical and humane way. When animals are used, AAALAC works with institutions and researchers to serve as a bridge between progress and animal well-being. This is done through AAALAC's voluntary accreditation process in which research programs demonstrate that they meet the minimum standards required by law, and are *also* going the extra step to achieve excellence in animal care and use.

The Lifespan Animal Care and Use program has been accredited for 35 years. The Miriam Hospital was first accredited in 1970 and Rhode Island Hospital was first accredited in 1996. Institutions are accredited for a period of up to three years. An application to renew our accreditation was submitted in December 2004. The comprehensive program status evaluation document describes all aspects of animal care and use.

Last month site visitors from AAALAC spent two full days touring all areas where animals are housed and used including laboratories, procedure rooms, surgical areas and support space. IACUC processes and records were also thoroughly evaluated.

What AAALAC had to say:

- Central Animal Facility (CAF) animal care technicians do a great job. The staff is engaged, educated, experienced and enthusiastic!
- The new facility at Coro is well designed and well equipped.
- The institution is to be praised for obvious attention to ergonomics to prevent injury and allergy awareness among the staff
- Commendations were given for the Access database in use by ORA and CAF staff to support IACUC function and provide up to date information regarding animal approval details for administrative staff and research investigators

The site visitors offered suggestions that we can use to improve and enhance the animal care and use program and a team is in place to address these comments. In the future you will be informed of efforts to expand the Occupational Health Program to include continuing monitoring for staff. The IACUC is also working to provide additional guidance concerning Rodent Survival Surgery which will include standardized recommendations for pre-operative surgical site preparations, appropriate anesthesia methods, and post operative pain management and monitoring. The Central Animal Facility will also be developing an Enrichment plan to be applied consistently for all animals. Together we can make our program even stronger!

Comments?

Please let us know if this newsletter was helpful. Please send your questions and comments to Jacqui Poore, JPoore@Lifespan.org 444-2093