

Animal Care Services Newsletter

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Attending Veterinarian/Director of Animal Care Services

Animal Care Services (ACS) and the office of the Attending Veterinarian every other month will publish this newsletter to communicate with those who use or provide support to the animal care program at the University of Florida. The newsletters will contain new policies, new services, updates on animal facility improvements, updates on federal regulations and policies and other items of importance to animal users. We will use email as our primary method of distributing the newsletter and also will have copies of the newsletter available in the animal facilities. Please print this newsletter and distribute it to members of your department. If you did not receive this newsletter by email, and would like to be added to the email list, please send an email message to wcarter@vpha.health.ufl.edu with "add to ACS newsletter" under subject. All issues will be maintained in our website.

Clarification of Title

The term "University Veterinarian" has caused some confusion based on historical use of the term at the University of Florida. The meaningful title, from a regulatory standpoint, is "Attending Veterinarian", and is reflected in Dr. Battles' title as both Director of ACS and the Attending Veterinarian.

Review of Animal Care and Use Protocols (ACUPs) by the ACS Veterinarians

The ACS veterinarians, as designees of the Attending Veterinarian, have begun offering a new service to investigators to facilitate IACUC approval of their protocols. The ACS veterinarians are available to consult with the investigators prior to submission to the IACUC, to review the protocol for adequate veterinary care and advise the investigator on the availability of programs and facilities to support the investigator's research program. The ACS veterinarians can also provide advice on the animal model selected and provide suggestions to facilitate a timely review of the ACUP. This is especially important for new animal research programs or where there is the potential for the animals used in the protocol to experience pain or distress. These meetings also provide an opportunity for the ACS veterinarians to discuss issues that are important for appropriate veterinary and husbandry support after the research program is implemented.

New ACS Working Hours – Effective 10 December 2001

Husbandry, loading dock (receiving) and truck driver: 7:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Clinical laboratory: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
Administrative office: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (including coverage during the lunch hour).

Animal Awareness and Use Seminars

Attendance at an animal awareness and use seminar is required for all first time investigators and research staff involved in the handling and use of animals and animal tissues. This program is intended to discuss regulatory and ethical issues pertaining to the care and use of animals at the University of Florida. The program will be shorter in duration than the previous sessions. During this presentation investigators and their staff will have an opportunity to meet me or the Associate Director. Participation in this seminar must occur prior to granting facility access and before animals may be ordered.

Introductions

Dr. Marcel Perret-Gentil (Associate Director) and I have recently come to the University of Florida. We have already met many investigators and staff and hope to meet with most of you. It is important that we understand your needs prior to implementation of changes in the animal care and use program at the University of Florida. I encourage you to keep me informed of any issues you have about the program. Please call me at 392-2978 or email me at abattles@vpha.health.ufl.edu.

