

Research Resources

"We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals."....Immanuel Kant

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Research Resources will be sent out to Active Project Directors, but I encourage you to share this will all your staff, and, if any want to be included in the mailing, have them send a request to stacy.wells@louisville.edu. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, you may send your items to the same address.

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The Director's Cut: B2V Watering Challenges

By William W. King, PhD, DVM

In a research setting, unexpected animal deaths may be inevitable, but are nonetheless disturbing. When involving "normal" husbandry practices, they are devastating and demoralizing. Unfortunately, we have been experiencing and responding to such in one of our newest and largest vivaria. Although this news is "challenging" at best, I am pleased to report of the efforts of those involved and their progress.

Many of you with animals in the Baxter II Vivarium (B2V) are well aware that we have been experiencing tribulations with the automatic watering systems. A number of mice have succumbed to hypothermia following cage flooding or other significant watering system leaks. While problems are inevitable even with water bottles, the magnitude of incidents increased dramatically over the past few months. Please know that the RRF, led primarily by



Ralph Hornickel (RRF Facilities Manager) and Brigitte Foote (Facility Supervisor for the Baxter vivaria) has been energetically addressing these issues and diligently working with both rack and watering system vendors to address all possible causes and develop a plan of action.

We expect to assemble a comprehensive report, but allow at least a brief summary. Brigitte and her staff have been tracking the incidence of "wet cages" for several months now, by cage, rack, and room involved. Some cases are simply because the occupants are diabetic (polydipsia and polyuria) or strains that literally play with the water source until the bedding is soaked. Physical problems have also been identified. Discovery of a black sediment in the water line of some affected cages led to analysis and the discovery of specific component deterioration and failure.

Our focus is now primarily placed on three devices: 1) the drinker valve itself, which may become loose over time, 2) a small nylon disk that reduces the animals' ability to drive litter or other debris into the drinker valve, which may become brittle, and 3) the rubber "O" rings within the cage-rack junction, which may be damaged following forceful docking of the cages or cage misalignment. Please take note - if the cage does not seat and latch properly and easily, there is a problem that requires analysis. *Forcing the cage into place will increase the likelihood of leaks.*

Fortunately, the vendors of both the cage and watering systems have been very helpful. The rack manufacturer has agreed to train and fund (for up to one month's salary) an RRF technician to inspect,

monitor, and repair all of the cages and cage-rack junctions for all of the racks in use. The company has also provided enough parts to completely re-fit three racks. Damaged parts from these three will be returned to the factory for repair, initiating a cycle for refurbishing all of the B2V racks. This process may require some time but should resolve remaining issues.

My initial reaction, like many of you I expect, questioned why some of these issues were not anticipated by the manufacturers based on their design or experience with other institutions. We have learned, however, that there are no two identical installations or user-defined operations. A key contributing factor appears to be the extent of steam sterilization practiced in the B2V, which exceeds most other facilities utilizing this particular equipment. Therefore, practical knowledge regarding its maintenance continues to evolve. Much of this equipment is relatively new to our industry and has not yet enjoyed decades of fine-tuning. Regardless, we have learned that with the environmental enhancement available from Individually-Ventilated Cage Systems (IVCS) comes a need for increased surveillance and support programs. This is sophisticated equipment requiring sophisticated care. We will soon be incorporating this care into our Standard Operating Procedures and user training as well. Stay tuned...

NABR Advises Members as to How Best to Combat Targeting by Animal-Rights Activists

A February 20 article appearing on the Web site of the trade magazine *Human Resources Executive* quotes NABR Vice President Mary Hanley on the subject of minimizing the threat of animal activism. For one, she reviews how aggressive background checks on those applying for work in research facilities can reduce the possibility of the workplace being infiltrated by individuals with animal-rights agendas. Hanley also advises HR personnel to consider the tell-tale signs of a possible infiltrator, such as being overeager to work nightshifts. She also reflects on ways companies may increase communication with employees about

controversial projects with which they are involved, so that those workers may take any necessary precautions. To read Hanley's recommendations, and those of other experts quoted in the article, visit <http://www.hreonline.com/HRE/story.jsp?storyId=75037429>.

The threat of animal activism is real, and NABR applauds any and all efforts taken to allay that threat.

Training Announcement

The following is a list of Level III - Basic Rodent Biotechnology training sessions scheduled through June 2008. Sessions are located in the Baxter Facilities and the RRC Surgical Suites. Please review and select either a morning (9:30 - 11:30) or afternoon (1:00 - 3:00) session for the designated facility. Proper facility attire is required.

RRC Surgical Suites

January	17 th
February	14 th
March	13 th
April	17 th
May	15 th
June	19 th

B2V Room #47 *

January	15 th
February	12 th
March	11 th
April	15 th
May	13 th
June	17 th

*Sessions for the Baxter 2 Vivarium are limited to 10 attendees due to space restrictions. Scheduling will be on a first come/first served basis.

These are two hour sessions designed to provide an opportunity to train on routine handling and experimental techniques while using live mice and rats. These small group sessions are instructed by certified laboratory animal technologists and laboratory animal technicians along with veterinarians, and therefore, provide a maximum opportunity for learning skills.

Topics to be covered are restraint and handling, sexing, identification, physical examination, blood collection, injection,

gavage and necropsy techniques. Classes are designed to permit both demonstration and practice. There will be opportunity to target individual learning needs in addition to these basic techniques.

Participation is open to all University of Louisville employees working with animals. Ideally all attendees have completed Level II training and OSHA certification. Please share this opportunity with your research team.

Registration is required. Simply respond to Janice Ditslear, Senior Veterinary Associate, at jldits01@gwise.louisville.edu with date/time selections, names of attendees and department or contact her via phone at one of the following numbers.

Work: (502)852-6905
Cell: (502)500-6684

Submit Abstracts and Topics to the AALAS National Meeting

Dr. Chris Newcomer and the AALAS Program Committee would like to encourage those of you with backgrounds and expertise in research, clinical care of animal models, or neurobehavioral sciences to submit proposals for special topic lectures, panel discussions, seminars, and abstracts for the 2008 National Meeting.

Topic submissions should be designed specifically for one of the following formats: 2-hour, 45-minute seminar, 1.5-hour panel discussion, 1-hour special topic lecture, 4-hour workshop, or 20-minute technical trade presentation.

Abstract submissions will be considered for either a platform or poster presentation format. Platform presentations are typically 10-15 minutes in length and are grouped together by general category.

You may view the requirements for submitting abstracts and proposing educational session topics on the National Meeting website at <http://nationalmeeting.aalas.org/callforabs.asp>.

The deadline for topic submissions is March 15, 2008, while the deadline for abstract submissions has been pushed back to June 1.

Abstracts can be submitted electronically at the Abstract Central Submission Site - <http://aalas.abstractcentral.com/>.

February 2008 Comp Med

The following are the titles of the publications in the December's issue of AALAS's Comparative Medicine:

- [Beyond Specific Pathogen-Free: Biology and Effect of Common Viruses in Macaques](#)
- [Clinical and Pathologic Features of Cynomolgus Macaques \(Macaca fascicularis\) Infected with Aerosolized Yersinia pestis](#)
- [Comparative Pathobiology of Kaposi Sarcoma-associated Herpesvirus and Related Primate Rhadinoviruses](#)
- [Comparative Pathobiology of Macaque Lymphocryptoviruses](#)
- [Development of Breeding Populations of Rhesus Macaques \(Macaca mulatta\) That Are Specific Pathogen-free for Rhesus Cytomegalovirus](#)
- [Effects of the Macrolide Drug Tylosin on Chronic Diarrhea in Rhesus Macaques \(Macaca mulatta\)](#)
- [Monkey B Virus \(Cercopithecine herpesvirus 1\)](#)
- [Polyomaviruses of Nonhuman Primates: Implications for Research](#)
- [Safety and Colonization of Two Novel virG\(icsA\)-based Live Shigella sonnei Vaccine Strains in Rhesus Macaques \(Macaca mulatta\)](#)
- [Simian Parvoviruses: Biology and Implications for Research](#)
- [Simian Varicella in Old World Monkeys](#)
- [Susceptibility of Owl Monkeys \(Aotus nancymaae\) to Experimental Infection with Bartonella bacilliformis](#)

If you would like to view copies of these papers, please contact the RRF office @ x5268 or one of the husbandry supervisors. Or visit the AALAS website at this site: <http://www.aalas.org/publications>. (You must be an AALAS member.)

Register Now for NABR's 2008 Leadership Conference and International Forum

You may now complete your registration online for **NABR's 2008 Leadership Conference** (June 23) and **Communication and Collaboration: An International Forum for Animal**

Research Policy (June 24-25). Online registration is secured by username and password. To request your username and password, please contact info@animalresearchforum.org. For more information, see www.animalresearchforum.org.

Training sessions are held in the **Baxter I Auditorium** and last approximately 1.5 hours. Registration is not required, but participants must sign in.

DEHS Required Training

DEHS has monthly training on Lab Safety/Hazardous Waste (LS/HW). LS/HW is from **9:00-10:30AM** in **Baxter I Auditorium** on the following dates:
March 13, 2008
April 10, 2008
May 8, 2008
June 12, 2008

Bring your employee ID number to sign in. Contact erin.foley@louisville.edu to reserve your spot.

New Website for Bloodborne Pathogen Training

DEHS is now providing all Bloodborne Pathogens (BBP) training for UofL employees online. UofL employees who are at risk for occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens are now able to complete both initial and annual refresher at <http://louisville.edu/dehs/train/bbp.html>. Classroom training will no longer be required and the monthly classroom training will no longer be offered, effective immediately. Questions may be directed to DEHS 852-2961 or 852-2962.

Level II Training

The following is the list of dates and times that Level II training will be offered:

2008

Thursday, March 6 th 1:30 PM
Monday, April 7th 10:00 AM
Thursday, May 8th 1:30 PM
Monday, June 2nd 10:00 AM
Thursday, July 10th 1:30 PM
Monday, August 4th at 10:00 AM
Thursday, September 4th at 1:30 PM
Monday, October 6th at 10:00 AM
Thursday, November 6th at 1:30 PM
Monday, December 1st at 10:00 AM