Dear Colleagues:

The NEW & IMPROVED animal program website went live today. The url address you used for the old site will still work for the new one, so other than new font and appearance, you shouldn't have any problems or notice dramatic changes (other than it should work better). We hope you find the new version easier to navigate and practical to use.

FAQs on the new site:
1. While the url address for the home page is identical to the old site (you get to it the same way), if you have problems, then enter the following url as a back-up port of entry. http://vetmed.duhs.duke.edu/index.html
2. The new site has a SEARCH function which should improve the ease of navigation. The SEARCH function will be live on 11 July (Monday). The rest of the site is live as of this message.
3. The new site has been tested on the following browsers: (and works well on each)
   a. Internet Explorer version 8 or better
   b. Safari
   c. Mozilla
   d. Firefox
4. The browser Chrome appears to have difficulties with PDF files, so it may not be the best choice if downloading the protocol template. We are working on a solution to this issue

Questions about materials on the new animal program site, or issues of connectivity with the new site may be directed to OAWA Office Manager: Vivian Imamura (phone: 668-6720)
email: Vivian.imamura@duke.edu

Upcoming Dates & Deadlines

August 1, 2011: New Protocol Deadline
August 4, 2011: Amendment Meeting
August 8, 2011: Amendment Deadline
August 18, 2011: Amendment Meeting
August 22, 2011: Amendment Deadline
September 1, 2011: Amendment Meeting
September 6, 2011: New Protocol Deadline

FALL 2011 IACUC SEMIANNUAL SITE VISIT SCHEDULE

Please make a note of the date for your facility. Inspections will take place on Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

August 4, 2011: LSRC – SANDS
August 11, 2011: GSRB2 – MESOCOSUM
August 18, 2011: BRYAN – NANALINE
DUKE – VSH CARY
September 1, 2011: JONES – ENGINEERING – RP 2, 3 & 4 – GSRB2 ANNEX – GSRB1
September 8, 2011: MARINE LAB – MUSEUM OF LIFE & SCIENCE
September 15, 2011: CARL – EYE CENTER – DLAR FARM – INDEPENDENCE PARK
September 29: CCIF
October 6, 2011: FOSTER ST. – BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE – FELL – FRENCH FAMILY SCIENCE
October 13, 2011: DUKE NORTH/SOUTH – GHRB – CIEMAS (FITZPATRICK)
November 3, 2011: LEMUR CENTER – MSRB2 – ECOTOX FACILITY
GNOTOBIOtic PIONEER DR. PHILLIP C. TREXLER HONOURED ON 100TH BIRTHDAY.

Dr. Phillip C. Trexler, the founder and developer of flexible film isolators and gnotobiotic animals will be honored on the occasion of his 100th birthday and for his efforts in the development of these technologies on July 30, 2011 at the University of Notre Dame where the first gnotobiotic animals were developed by him and his colleagues.

Philip C. Trexler served as associate director of the Lobund Institute of the University of Notre Dame where the first germ-free rats and mice were developed. He developed the flexible film isolator. In 1960 he conducted a workshop in which he taught the major suppliers of lab animals how to derive their animal stocks and stains into the “germ-free” or axenic state, thereby freeing them of the numerous infectious disease agents which were plaguing biomedical research. This workshop was a seminal event in enabling suppliers to produce animals free of interfering infectious disease agents.

A flexible film isolator system.

Legal

North Carolina Grand Jury Indicts 4 Former Animal Lab Workers on Felony Animal Cruelty Charges

Four former employees at a North Carolina lab have been indicted on felony animal cruelty charges, following an infiltration by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Gates County District Attorney Frank Parrish said two employees were indicted on two counts each of cruelty to animals, while two other employees were each indicted on five counts of the same charge. Parrish said the grand jury handed down the indictments on July 5th. The charges follow PETA’s September 2010 release of video footage and photographs obtained by an undercover PETA operative who worked at Professional Laboratory and Research Services, Inc. (PLRS), a contract research organization (CRO) located in North Carolina, for nine months. PLRS closed several weeks after USDA received PETA’s report and local media reported that a variety of animal protection groups received more than 200 animals from the lab.

For more information, see http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/north-carolina-grand-jury-indicts-4-former-animal-lab-workers-on-felony-animal-cruelty-charges/2011/07/06/gIQA57q00H_story.html

New APHIS Animal Care Statement to Appear on AWA Inspection Reports

To provide members of the public with additional context about the information contained in Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Animal Care (AC) inspection reports posted to the APHIS website, AC has developed a 1-page statement that is available at the following link: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_welfare/downloads/IR_Explanation.pdf. A link to this notice will also be available at the bottom of each inspection report. According to APHIS National Stakeholders Liaison Hallie Zimmers’ July 5 announcement, “This statement should help to address questions members of the public sometimes have about our inspection process.”
A FEW TIPS FOR DISPOSING OF PHARMACEUTICALS:

This information was gleaned from the AVMA policy, and although does not address a research setting specifically, still offers some good advice on disposing of drugs.

Minimize unused pharmaceuticals:
- Maintain close inventory control to decrease expired/unused drugs.
- Write prescriptions for infrequently used drugs to prevent expirations.
- Consider assigning responsibility for inventory control and disposal to one or a limited number of staff members. Whenever possible, return drugs nearing expiration to the distributor.
- Follow federal and state guidelines for disposal of controlled substances and hazardous waste.
- Incineration typically provides the highest level of best management:
  - Contract with an appropriate commercial disposal company. Sharps and medical waste disposal companies may be able to provide this service, depending on state regulations. Local human hospitals may have information on incineration companies or services available in the area.
  - Use containers provided or recommended by the disposal company. The container should be leak-proof. Use of a leak-proof and tamper-resistant package will help prevent diversion. Add an absorbent substance such as kitty litter for liquids.
  - For partially used liquids in syringes, place the needle in a sharps container, evacuate unused liquid pharmaceuticals into a leak-proof container containing an absorbent material such as kitty litter, and dispose of the syringe as appropriate medical waste.

- Controlled substances and hazardous wastes (including chemotherapeutic agents and epinephrine) are handled differently from non-hazardous waste, and must be disposed of in accordance with federal and state laws. The services of a commercial company may be needed to comply with those laws.
- Never flush pharmaceuticals into the toilet or squirt down the sink.
- Never burn pharmaceutical waste unless authorized by federal and state regulations in an approved incinerator.

Train all clinic employees on proper disposal of hazardous and non-hazardous waste.

UNCAGED

A new book from FBR Executive Vice President Paul McKellips

In a thrill a minute read, author Paul McKellips poses a frightening “what if” scenario that will leave the human race on the brink of certain disaster. When a series of attacks on animal researchers leave several people dead, the government—including the President—issues an immediate ban on animal testing. And that’s when the real trouble begins...

At the heart of the action are two government agents, the dashing Commander “Camp” Campbell, a man as decorated for his bravery in Iraq as for his own self-professed charm. Lieutenant Colonel Leslie Raines is the more practical of the two, a woman defined by her dedication to rules. Camp has returned to the States, newly reassigned to a government-funded test site. When the ban on animals comes down, Camp pulls a reckless act by making off with two hundred rats… and winds up in deep trouble. He is immediately banished for a year, his superiors hoping the ramifications of his stunt will have worn off by then. Raines, uncharacteristically covering for him, finds herself joining him. But where they are headed only increases the risk—both to themselves, to the scientist whose very existence is threatened… and the future of the human race.

Who is really behind the ban on animal testing? And why? Could a deadly, dangerous fanatical group be behind the threat of a new vein of plague sweeping across the country… or worse, could it be someone one people have come to trust?

If interested, you can on obtain a signed copy of the book at: http://www.fbresearch.org/Uncaged.aspx

We anticipate a visit from Mr. McKellips later this year at one of the Brown Bag Seminar.
Rinderpest eradicated

International organizations declare "cattle plague" dead

Rinderpest caused hundreds of millions of animal deaths that preceded famines in Africa, Asia, and Europe. After centuries of efforts to prevent outbreaks of the disease, international authorities announced in May that the disease was the second, after smallpox, to be eradicated through human efforts.

The World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) proclaimed May 25 that all 198 countries and territories with rinderpest-susceptible animals were free of the disease, and, at press time, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations was expected to declare June 28 that the disease has been eradicated. The announcements indicate the morbillivirus that caused rinderpest remains only in laboratories.

Efforts to fight the "cattle plague" were connected with the 1761 founding of the world’s first veterinary school in Lyon, France, and the 1924 founding of the OIE. FAO information indicates rinderpest epizootics were also associated with the fall of the Roman Empire, the conquest of Christian Europe by Charlemagne, the French Revolution, the impoverishment of Russia, and extensive famines in Africa.

"Century after century, it swept around Europe and Asia with every military campaign, leaving disaster, death, and devastation behind it," FAO information states.

Outbreaks killed millions of animals in the 1980s alone in Africa, southern Asia, and the Middle East, and a 1994 outbreak in Pakistan killed tens of thousands of cattle, buffalo, and yak, according to the FAO. The last confirmed outbreak was in 2001, when buffalo were found to be infected in Kenya.

Eradication proves ability

Dr. Ron DeHaven, AVMA CEO, recalled seeing rinderpest's devastating effects on animals during a three-week course from the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service about 25 years ago. Dr. DeHaven was the APHIS administrator prior to working at the AVMA, and the course was intended to aid identification of diseases such as rinderpest, foot and mouth disease, and classical swine fever in case U.S. livestock populations became infected.

"The animals that get it really suffer," Dr. DeHaven said. "So by eliminating the disease, we're not only realizing an economic benefit but also an animal welfare benefit."

Animal experiments increase again

The number of animal experiments carried out in the UK rose by 3% last year, according to government figures.

The rise was largely due to an increase in the use of genetically modified (GM) and mutant animals, a trend that shows no signs of abating.

The news comes as campaigners warn a new EU directive threatens standards of welfare for UK lab animals.

They argue that a number of the directive’s regulations fall short of those already in place in the UK. GM animals and "harmful mutant" animals largely account for the rise.