

The DLAM Sentinel

A Newsletter from the Division of Laboratory Animal Medicine (DLAM)

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Save the Date – DLAM Seminar on Recognizing Rodent Pain / Distress and Common Rodent Health Conditions

Please save the date for an important free seminar on recognizing pain and distress and common health conditions in your mouse and rat colonies. Also included, how to properly report to DLAM any health concerns you may find; how to record treatment for ongoing health cases; how to properly fill out cards and post-it notes for cage-side communication. We'll also review some commonly prescribed treatments for health problems; and, of course, answer your questions! If you are somewhat new to rodent care or even an expert and still have some questions, please plan on attending or sending at least one member of your lab staff who cares for your animals.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 18th, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

WHERE: CHS (Center for Health Sciences) 13-105 lecture hall

WHO: Anyone caring for research rodents and rodent colonies

WHY: To provide better care for your animals, and obtain better-quality data as a result

New Rodent Room Classification System

On February 9th, DLAM Executive Director Jeff Goodwin announced the implementation of a new rodent room classification system for DLAM vivaria. This system primarily affects the PPE that is worn in each room; order of entry procedures; and microbiological status, meaning the pathogens that we strive to exclude at each classification level. Signs are posted at the entry to each vivaria and on the door of every room containing animals, detailing what PPE is required, and what rooms animals (and people) can move to after having been in that class of room. (People can enter higher-order rooms the following day, having gone home, changed clothes and showered; animals, however, cannot return to higher-class rooms). The classification system is found on the DLAM website at: <https://portal.dlam2.ucla.edu/Lists/Announcements/Attachments/124/Rodent%20Room%20Classification%20System.pdf>. This system is gradually being phased-in across campus. Questions concerning the system should be directed to the Animal Resource Supervisor of each vivarium, or to the DLAM Executive Director at JGoodwin@mednet.ucla.edu. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we make this change, which we believe will benefit both the animal and researcher populations at UCLA.

AAALAC Is Coming!

A gentle reminder that, sometime later this summer, we will be welcoming site visitors from AAALAC, International (the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care). This visit happens every three years as part of the UC Chancellor's mandate that all UC campuses maintain accreditation by AAALAC (see UCOP Policy "Use of Animals in Research and Teaching" <http://policy.ucop.edu/doc/2500494/AnimalUse>). The visitors will be touring all of our vivarium areas, as well as many lab spaces and study areas. The visit date has not yet been set but will likely be near the end of July. As we get closer to the date, we will be sending much more information to our animal researchers, including tips to prepare. If you are interested, more background on this organization is here: <http://www.aaalac.org/>.

DLAM Emergency Phone Tree

Please take note of the DLAM Emergency Phone Tree number of **310-825-2200**, and use this for all veterinary or facility emergencies. This line is in operation 24/7, including after-hours, on the weekends or over any holiday. The on-call vet pager is unreliable and will eventually be disconnected. Please update all documents, signs and cell phone contacts. Thank you!

Use the Internal Transfer Request Form to Move Animals

A reminder to use the DLAM Internal Transfer Request, located on the front page of the DLAM website at <https://portal.dlam2.ucla.edu/Pages/Default.aspx> to transfer animals between protocols, such as from a breeding protocol to an experimental protocol when you are ready to start your ARC-approved study, and to move animals from one vivarium location to another, including from one rack to another within a room; this is important to maintain the integrity of our Sentinel health monitoring program. Please do not request to transfer sick animals (animals that are clinical health cases); animals must recover from their conditions before they can be subjected to the added stress of transfer. Sick animals also should not be used for experiments. For a physical transfer (one location to another), please place a completed pink "please transfer these animals to" post-it on each cage, and allow DLAM 72-hours, not including weekends, to complete the transfer. For a transfer only from one protocol to another, once you submit the form on-line, the transfer is considered to be complete by the ARC. DLAM will still place updated cage cards for you (corrected protocol number), if you request it, and label the cages with post-its so we can find them in the room.