An Important Note Regarding Disposable Cages

DLAM is using Innovive® disposable caging in the hazardous containment facilities as well as in a few non-hazardous locations. The caging is made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic (Dacron™) which can be dented out of shape easily, similarly to some commercially available drinking water bottles. Please exercise caution when handling cages made of this material. If the cage bottom is accidently bumped against a hard surface it can dent, leaving a creased edge on the inside of the cage. We’ve found that mice will focus on the raised area and chew on it, creating a hole large enough for them to escape.

We’ve also found that some of the water bottles are damaged.

The bottle cap must fit flush with the cage lid. The water hole in the cap must align with the water access hole on the lid; otherwise the mice will not be able to reach the water. They can also chew on the small water hole on the lid, making it large enough to work their way up and out of the cage.

Missing filters, as shown in the picture below, can also lead to escape of mice from the enclosure. Please examine any disposable / recyclable caging you may be using to ensure its integrity, presence of filters, unobstructed water access (stickers removed from the water bottle cap) and proper alignment of water access holes between the bottle cap and the cage.

Report any issues you may find with the caging to DLAM staff as soon as you find them. If new caging is available in the area, we recommend you change the mice to proper caging to minimize chances of them escaping the enclosure.

Thank you for contributing to keep our animals safe, secure and healthy.

Holiday Ordering Dates

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR’S Holidays Weeks: There will be no Vendor Deliveries, Imports, or Outgoing shipments from December 22nd, 2014 through January 4th, 2015.

The last delivery date for 2014 is December 16th. The order deadline for that delivery date is December 9th, 2014 (tomorrow).

The first delivery date for 2015 will be January 6th. The order deadline for that delivery date is December 16th, 2014.

All orders placed between the dates of 12/16/2014 and 01/06/2015 will be processed to arrive on 01/13/2015 as space allows.

Please inform all users in your department about the holiday delivery schedules.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Tensie Palmer at x42571, tpalmer@mednet.ucla.edu as soon as possible.
The DLAM Sentinel

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

Oral Suspension Trimethoprim Sulfamethoxazole No Longer Available

The manufacturer of the flavored pediatric suspension of trimethoprim sulfamethoxazole (TMS) antibiotic has unexpectedly ceased production. We suggest the following alternatives for rodent users:

- Oral Amoxicil (pediatric suspension) dosed at 1 ml of the reconstituted bottle plus 199 ml of drinking water (final concentration 0.25 mg/ml). This should be changed every 7 days. As with any drug added to the water, make sure NOT to use acidified water, use reverse osmosis or sterile water. The acid water will inactivate the drug. Amoxicil is available from our DLAM Pharmacy, contact them at DLAMPharmacy@mednet.ucla.edu or ext. 5-5363 with any questions or to place an order. A 30 ml bottle costs about $12. (This antibiotic is effective only in mice, not in rats).

- Diluted injectable Baytril / enrofloxacin (an antibiotic labeled for use in dogs) that is added to the drinking water to reach a dose of 0.25 - 0.5 mg/ml of drinking water. Baytril is sold at two stock concentrations, 22.7 mg/ml and 100 mg/ml, so if you are buying it for this purpose, the higher concentration is better. This product can be bitter, so add a little fruit juice to the water (5 – 10 ml per bottle), or a packet of Splenda or other sweetener. This should be changed every 5 days, or sooner if you notice the water getting cloudy or off-color. Baytril is also available from our Pharmacy. A 100 ml bottle of the 100 mg/ml concentration is about $140, the smaller 20 ml, 22.7 mg/ml bottle, is about $56.

Sterile, TMS-mediated rodent chow: For all three of these products, the regular chow must be removed from the cage while the mice are on this medicated diet, as the medicated pellets provide complete nutrition. A blue “Investigator will Feed/Water/Medicate/Fast” tag must be placed on the cage. There are three sources for this.

1. The first product is from Bio-Serv, which is a 5 g tablet (a little above what a 20 gram mouse would consume in a day; a rat eats about 5 grams of food per 100 grams of body weight) that contains 12 mg Trimethoprim and 60 mg Sulfamethoxazole. More information on this diet can be found at http://www.bio-serv.com/Rodent_Medicated/SCIDS.html. Labs would need to order it directly from the company. The cost is $55.00 for a bag of 100 tablets.

2. The second source is Harlan-Teklad, which sells their chow in 25-pound irradiated bags - a good alternative if you need to treat a large number of animals. This is the same chow that our rodents are normally fed, to which TMS has been added. Their website is http://www.harlan.com/products_and_services/research_models_and_services/laboratory_animal_diets/teklad_medicated_diets.html see the “Pneumocystis pneumonia Prevention” diet. Labs would need to order this feed directly.

3. The third source is TestDiet’s TMS medicated “Sulfa-Trim” / SCIDS Diets. Their website is here http://www.testdiet.com/Diets/Medicated/index.html. Their diets are available in a variety of strengths and as tablets and pellets. Labs would also need to order this feed directly. Contact a DLAM veterinarian for a consultation if you are unsure which formulation would best fit your needs.

The OARO / ARC is not requiring any change to your ARC protocol at this time regarding the antibiotic you are using, as TMS is not available and this is the veterinary recommendation for the health of your animals. However, at some point, if it is determined that a) TMS will never become available again, or b) you wish to permanently change to this other option, and Amendment to change or add another antibiotic to your protocol(s) should be made.

If you have any questions on antibiotic choice for your rodents, please contact Dr Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves at JReeves@mednet.ucla.edu.

Transport of Caging and Supplies within the Vivaria

Within all of the vivaria, we have required that caging materials be bagged while being transported between rooms, from the housing rooms to the procedure rooms and from the cage supply carts to the housing and procedure rooms. This was done based on our understanding at the time of Mouse Parvovirus and the ease of which it was spread. Since that time, the prevalence of this infection and our understanding of the biology and epizootiology of this virus have grown and we have concluded that bagging of equipment within vivaria is no longer necessary.

As of December 3rd, 2014, the practice of bagging all supplies and cages within a barrier facility will no longer be required. However, a micro-isolator top will be required to be in place when transporting dirty cages or cages containing animals. This protects the animals from environmental contaminants and the human from allergen exposure.

For security reasons, a black bag will be required when transporting animals between facilities or when transporting within public corridors. Thus if you are taking a mouse from a return room to your lab, a black bag will be required.

If you have any questions regarding this change in procedure or if you need clarification, please feel free to contact Dr Greg Lawson, GLawson@mednet.ucla.edu.

DLAM Holiday Staffing and the 2014-2015 Winter Holiday Closure

During the mandatory winter holiday closure of the UCLA campus from Dec 24th through Jan 2nd, DLAM will continue to provide daily animal care, with the following adjustments in service - please plan your experiments accordingly:

- The necropsy room and clinical pathology lab will be closed Dec. 24, 25 and 26 and Dec 31st through Jan 2nd.
- The DLAM Pharmacy will be closed on Dec. 25 and 26, and Jan 1st and 2nd.
- The Vivarium Facility Emergency room and clinical pathology lab will be closed Dec. 24, 25, 26, and 31. The other days (Dec 25 - 28, and Jan 1st and 2nd) will be handled as weekends / holidays, when the emergency contact person on the protocol will be called about any very sick animals.
- If research lab staff is unable to provide daily monitoring of experimental animals, or care of any sick animals, with advance notice, DLAM vet tech transfers.
- Veterinary staff will send out emailed clinical health case reports for rodents on Dec 24, 29, 30, and 31. The other days (Dec 25 - 28, and Jan 1st and 2nd) will be handled as weekends / holidays, when the emergency contact person on the protocol will be called about any very sick animals.
- If research lab staff is unable to provide daily monitoring of experimental animals, or care of any sick animals, with advance notice, DLAM vet tech staff will be available to carry out orders by the lab and also to monitor the animals on a recharge basis. To arrange for these services, or to let DLAM know if there is a cell phone or other alternate lab contact number during the holidays, contact Carmen Volpe, CVolpe@mednet.ucla.edu.

DLAM husbandry staffing will be reduced during the winter shutdown. This may affect when cages are changed and also the timing of releases and transfers. Contact the appropriate DLAM Area Supervisor for more information. If you need help in the vivaria over the holiday, please page the Vivarium Facility Emergency contact pager at 98714. All accidents, spills, fires or other incidents should be immediately reported by calling 9-1-1 from a campus telephone or 310 825-1491 from a cell phone to reach UCPD.

If a Trouble Call to Facilities is necessary, dial 310 825-9236. To report a serious injury, contact the EH&S Hotline at 310 825-9797.