

The DLAM Sentinel

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

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Rodent Cages Not as Full of Food

You may have noticed throughout the various vivaria that the levels of pelleted feed present in the wire bar lids for mice and rats are less than they used to be. DLAM has recently reduced the amount of feed that it places in each food hopper (based on the number of animals per cage and the cage-changing interval) to help reduce food waste, as the wire bar lids are changed and their contents dumped at regular intervals to help maintain fresh food for the animals. Food levels are still checked daily and food replenished as needed by DLAM staff to assure that animals do not run out.



Too much feed, one mouse per cage



Just the right amount, one mouse per cage

Please help us in this effort by not “topping-off” cages, overfilling weaned cages, or those brought back to return rooms, with food.

Vet On-Call Pager Being Phased Out

DLAM is making a transition from the Vet On-Call Pager to a new DLAM Emergency Phone Tree for after-hours emergencies. The number to call is **310-825-2200**. You will be directed to connect appropriately to report Veterinary Emergencies or Facilities Emergencies. The UCLA extension 5-2200 works from campus phones. The Vet On-Call Pager will be phased out in the near future. *Please start updating your lab contact signs, SOPs, laboratory Emergency Plans and other relevant documents now!*

Liquid TMS Available Again

We have located a new supplier, and the DLAM Pharmacy does have in stock plenty of the liquid antibiotic Trimethoprim sulfa (TMS), which is added to the drinking water of rats and mice post-op following surgeries or after other procedures which may leave them susceptible to infection, such as whole-body lethal irradiation. Contact a DLAM veterinarian to discuss and DLAMPharmacy@mednet.ucla.edu to ask about ordering (a reminder that you will need ARC approval on your protocol to use this product regularly). If you wish to continue using the TMS-feed product, please contact Matthew Dang at MDang@mednet.ucla.edu.

DLAM Pharmacy – New Location, Phone Number

To order items from the DLAM Pharmacy, please complete the on-line order form, which you then submit by email. The form is available on the front page of the DLAM website, <https://portal.dlam2.ucla.edu/> (on the right side of the page under the “DLAM Technical Services” heading, look for the “DLAM Pharmacy Services” Pharmacy Supply Request Form and click it), at the link <https://portal.dlam2.ucla.edu/TechOperations/FormLibrary/PharmacyRequestForm.pdf> or click [here](#).

Just complete the form and click on the “Submit Request” box (make sure your email is also open when you do this). The form is then sent as an attachment to the inbox for processing by our Pharmacy technician. You will receive a confirmatory email within 24 hours, and instructions for pick-up at **our new location (CHS 6V-124), which is open Monday-Friday**. If the item needs to be ordered, the email will advise you of an approximate date that it will arrive.

If the event of an emergency, such as needing an analgesic for a health case, please use pager 94434 (dial 231 from an on-campus phone, or 1-800-233-7231 from an off-campus or cell phone) or call extension 4-6581 (310-794-6581) (**PLEASE NOTE NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER**). After 4 pm, if the welfare of the animal is in jeopardy, you may call the DLAM Emergency Phone Tree at 310-825-2200 and follow the prompts to reach the on-call veterinarian for assistance.

Questions or concerns should be directed to the Pharmacy email account (DLAMPharmacy@mednet.ucla.edu).

CO2 Euthanasia Procedures for Rodents

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) euthanasia stations for rats and mice are available within most DLAM vivaria, with posted instruction cards to remind users of the proper procedures. In addition, the ARC has a policy entitled “Rodent CO₂ Euthanasia”, which all users must follow <http://ora.research.ucla.edu/OARO/Pages/ARC-policies/euthanasia-rodent.aspx>. Please note that, for those stations where rodent cages are placed into chambers, a valve has been added at the bottom of the chamber, which must be opened between cages in order to drain the chamber of accumulated CO₂. Due to the potential for increased pain/distress, the AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals (<https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf>) prohibit the use of pre-charged chambers for CO₂ euthanasia. The posted placards above the CO₂ chambers have been updated to include this step. These signs are also available on the DLAM website under Veterinary Services in the “DLAM Library” <https://portal.dlam2.ucla.edu/VeterinaryServices/Documents>. Flow-meters that adjust the amount of CO₂ that enters into the CO₂ chambers per minute have also been added to all CO₂ tanks on-campus; signs explaining their use are also posted above each CO₂ tank. Please take a moment to make sure you and all staff in your lab responsible for euthanizing rats and mice are properly trained in this euthanasia technique, particularly in verifying that death has occurred, either by monitoring the animal for 10 minutes following CO₂ administration or by performing a secondary, physical method of euthanasia as specified in your ARC-approved protocol.