

Memo



To: OLAC Staff, Research Investigators and Staff, and ACUC

From: Dr. Greg Lawson

Date: 5-17-17

Re: Treatment of mouse/rat health concerns

OLAC is actively streamlining processes to provide healthy animals for research while maintaining reasonable per diem rates. To meet this goal, a refinement of marking cages, reporting process for health cases, and treatment approach will be implemented beginning **Monday June 5, 2017.**

1. Health checks will be performed by animal technicians (ATs) first thing in the morning. All health-related issues will be recorded in OASIS and emails subsequently sent to the respective PIs and their designated lab contacts.
 - a. Health cases identified after 12pm will be held until the following day, with the exception of animals in critical condition.
 - b. Critical animal health cases reported will be addressed the same day using the following steps:
 - i. An attempt will be made to contact the PI or responsible lab member using the name and contact phone number recorded on the cage card. If no contact information is available, no attempt will be made.
 - ii. The person (AT, AHT, or facility supervisor) making the call will also note and provide the cage identification as recorded on the cage card.
 - iii. If a contact person is not clearly listed on the cage card and/or if the contact person is not reachable, the veterinary staff will be contacted to determine the action to be taken.
2. Cages with health concerns will be identified via one of the following 2 methods:
 - a. Red health report card, as done previously.
 - b. Reusable red transparency placed over the cage card. This process is being piloted in a selection of animal housing rooms in order to reduce waste and improve the health case reporting process.
3. OASIS-generated emails regarding health cases will indicate euthanasia as the first line of treatment. Research subjects should always be healthy to have confidence

in results and sick animals should not be used in breeding programs.

4. If a specific animal is vital to the PI's research goals, the PI must contact the veterinary staff at vetstaff@lists.berkeley.edu within 24 hrs of receipt of the email notification to determine if a treatment plan is possible. If treatment is deemed possible by the veterinary staff, the PI must provide a timeline and plan to prevent pain and distress.
5. All cases must be addressed within 24 hours of delivery of the email.
 - a. If the contact person or respective laboratory designee has not euthanized the animal and no request to keep the animal is sent to the veterinary staff within the 24 hour window, the animal will be euthanized and the lab will be charged for the cost of euthanasia.
 - b. This action will keep labs in compliance with regulations and university policies.