

## **Research Advisory Task Force (COVID-19)**

Committee Topic: Use of Animals in Research

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Policy Effective Date: March 18, 2020

## **Final UMB policy based upon the committee report and recommendations**

### **MODERATE RESEARCH RESTRICTIONS – effective immediately**

- 1) Ordering of new animals should be limited to those instances considered essential.\*
- 2) Experiments in progress should continue only if considered essential.
- 3) No new experiments should start unless considered essential.
- 4) Non-critical experiments should be delayed.
- 5) Large animal surgeries and procedures should be limited.
- 6) Reduce colony size by euthanizing excess animals, where appropriate.
- 7) Regularly monitor email for updates from Vet Resources, IACUC and the VMAC.
- 8) Each PI should consider evaluating all animals for status, meaning “high priority”, “low priority” and “euthanize first” in the event that conditions change such that large scale reductions in animals are necessary with short-term notice.
- 9) Each laboratory currently using animals in research should identify 2 key personnel who will be responsible for checking on animals during the moderate, and possibly severe stage of the pandemic.\*\*
- 10) These individuals should coordinate schedules to avoid being in the facility at the same time and provide comprehensive coverage. If they cannot avoid being there at the same time they should practice social distancing and wear face masks if available.
- 11) Given the potential for a reduction in Vet Resources staff due to illness or quarantine, among the above individuals, several from each vivarium should receive training from

Vet Resources regarding operating procedures for all basic aspects of animal husbandry. Cross training should occur within by Thursday, March 19 if possible.

- 12) All labs should generate and share a contact list with phone numbers for all members.
- 13) All PI's should identify a "Buddy Lab" that will take responsibility for monitoring their animals in the event that an entire lab is quarantined. A list of PI's for each vivarium will be distributed with contact information.
- 14) Policies regarding individuals not transgressing between animal rooms without a change in PPE should be re-emphasized to Vet Resources and laboratory staff and strictly enforced.
- 15) Vet Resources should generate a detailed contingency plan (SOP format) for avoiding a lapse in feed or water pouches, including the potential for switching to water bottles, and assure sufficient supplies of PPE. Vet Resources is asked to share this SOP with the VMAC.
- 16) Vet Resources should continue to change cages of rodents on the current schedule. If a significant departure from that schedule is anticipated, all PI's should be informed of the new schedule and if possible, given the opportunity to change their own cages.
- 17) Vet Resources should consider advance preparing a sufficient number of clean mouse cages, stored in autoclaved bags that are available for PI's that conduct their own husbandry.

**SEVERE RESEARCH RESTRICTIONS – if declared by the UMB President**

- 1) All new animal orders, imports and exports should cease.
- 2) All experiments should cease.
- 3) No new experiments should begin.
- 4) Suspend all large animal surgeries.
- 5) Continue monitoring of animals by key personnel.
- 6) Communicate regularly with Buddy Lab.
- 7) Regularly monitor email for updates from Vet Resources, IACUC and the VMAC.
- 8) Share information with Vet Resources and IACUC regarding priority status of animals. This can be done by labeling cages with hand-made signs or by emailing Vet Resources, copying IACUC, a clearly labeled list of animal priority status.

\* For here and all others, on the honor system

\*\*There is widespread concern about the ability of Vet Resources to adequately care for the animals without additional faculty and staff oversight during this challenging time.