

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY LABORATORY ANIMAL PROGRAM**

**Veterinary Care – Provision of Veterinary Services**

Investigators, or their designated representative(s), are expected to frequently monitor the health status of the animals used under their protocols. As such, they are required to report any ill, injured, or abnormal animal to the Laboratory Animal Program (LAP). Likewise, animal care staff who observe the animals on a daily basis are expected to report any animals showing signs of illness, injury, or abnormality to the LAP.

In order to address regulatory issues the LAP will, at the very least, provide **veterinary oversight** for all animals used in research, teaching, and testing at Purdue University. In some situations individuals outside of the LAP veterinary staff may perform veterinary care, providing that these individuals work in close association with the LAP.

**When sick/abnormal animals have been reported to the LAP:**

A veterinarian or a veterinary technician will examine all abnormal animals that are reported to the LAP. The LAP veterinarian or veterinary technician will assess abnormal animals as soon as possible from the time they are reported. Under most circumstances, abnormal animals will be examined before the end of the working day they are reported, and ideally, prior to the departure of the facility staff where the animal is housed. The LAP veterinarians and veterinary technicians will maintain frequent and direct communication regarding sick/abnormal animals. If the animal is under the primary care of another veterinarian, the LAP veterinarian or veterinary technician may simply note the case for the LAP records and follow up on the animal's progress either by phone/email with the primary veterinarian or by checking medical records of the animal. It is the responsibility of the primary veterinarian providing the animal care to maintain appropriate veterinary medical records (see below) that are kept accessible to the attending (LAP) veterinarian and/or USDA/PACUC inspectors.

The LAP veterinarian will inform the principal investigator (PI), or designated representative, about the condition of the animal, recommendations for treatment, and any additional diagnostic work necessary prior to the initiation of any treatment. An exception to this would be treatment that would clearly not affect the objectives of the study, or a life-threatening condition, in which case the treatment may be begun prior to notification of the investigator. If the PI or designated representative cannot be reached within a reasonable length of time, appropriate measures will be initiated by the LAP to ensure the animal's comfort and well-being. While every effort will be made to contact investigators prior to the initiation of any treatment or euthanasia, the final judgement on the need for veterinary care lies solely with the veterinary staff of the LAP.

**Medical Records:**

1. Prior to leaving an animal facility, a Medical Record (Clinical Activity Report – CAR) will be completed by the LAP veterinarian/veterinary technician and notation of the veterinary visit will be made in the facility's daily log for that respective room/animal. The completed record should contain:
  - Animal ID
  - Pertinent history/description of abnormality
  - Physical examination findings
  - Differential/presumptive diagnosis
  - Diagnostic treatment plan
2. When possible, the medical findings should be discussed with the facility manager or representative staff at the time of the examination.

## Veterinary Care II – Provision of Veterinary Services

3. Copies of the facility medical record will be left in the animal room and the PI's copy will be left with the facility manager or representative staff. It is the responsibility of the facility manager to forward the PI's copy.
4. Upon each subsequent re-check of the animal, a continuation sheet for the medical record detailing findings as well as any additional diagnostic and/or treatment plans will be completed. Notations will also be made in the facility day log for that respective animal room/animal. All entries should be signed and dated contemporaneously. Any pertinent dialogue between the LAP veterinarian or veterinary technician and the PI that occurs throughout the treatment or observation of the animal will be recorded in the medical record and promptly communicated either to the facility manager or representative staff.

### **Active Case Log:**

1. A log of all active medical cases will be maintained within the LAP. It is the responsibility of the veterinarian on call and the veterinary technologist to assure that this log is an up-to-date-reflection of animals with observed illnesses/abnormalities.
2. Upon examination of any animal, the date of current exam as well as a decision on an appropriate date of re-check will be noted on the active case log.