

---

### *How to Obtain Veterinary Care*

---

When any person believes an animal is abnormal, sick, in discomfort, or otherwise requires aid, a request for veterinary care is placed to the Laboratory Animal Program (LAP) office. The LAP must be notified of each abnormal animal even if the investigator/instructor is a veterinarian.

For any animal displaying abnormalities, the EVPRP Centralized staff complete an AHEF (Animal Health Evaluation Form).

The AHEF lists:

- Facility and room location
- Date and time noted
- Staff reporting issue
- Investigator name
- Protocol number
- Animal ID
- Rack number
- Cage location
- Species
- Cage card ID number
- Cage information
- Issue identified
- Action taken by staff
- Response time expected by investigator
- If assistance is needed from LAP

Forms are e-mailed to the PI, the specific animal user (e.g., graduate student or other research associate), and LAP veterinary staff. Forms may be for notification purposes to monitor animals more closely or may request action from the investigative staff and/or LAP depending on the severity of the issue.

While the AHEF lists the cage location, the cage is also labeled / identified by EVPRP centralized staff using a red Health Alert card.

In the case of rodents, especially mice, the investigator often makes a decision to euthanize the animal vs. seeking veterinary care.

Facilities not part of the EVPRP Centralized group or in cases where there is an immediate concern and the email OVPR Centralized staff AHEF procedure would not be timely enough, the following procedure is used to obtain veterinary care for all abnormal, ill, or injured animals:

Normal Business Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Email the LAP veterinary staff at [lapvet@groups.purdue.edu](mailto:lapvet@groups.purdue.edu) and tell them that you would like to request veterinary care. When reporting an abnormal animal, please be prepared to provide the following information:

- Animal identification
- Animal species
- Animal housing site & room number
- Investigator's name
- Your name & the phone number where the veterinary technician / veterinarian can reach you
- Brief Description of Problem
- Based Upon Your Knowledge of The Species, Would You Consider the Problem a Medical Emergency?

Make sure a red Health Alert card (or in some instances a red LAP Identification Tag may still be used in non-centralized facilities) is placed on the animal's enclosure. This will assist the veterinarian or veterinary technician in identifying the animal to be evaluated.

Evenings, Weekends and Holidays:

Email [lapvet@groups.purdue.edu](mailto:lapvet@groups.purdue.edu) and be prepared to provide the following information:

- Animal Identification
  - Animal Species
  - Animal Housing Site & Room Number
  - Investigator's Name
  - Your Name & The Phone Number Where The Veterinary Technician/Veterinarian Can Reach You
  - Brief Description Of Problem
  - Based Upon Your Knowledge Of The Species, Would You Consider the Problem A Medical Emergency?
1. Make sure a red Health Alert card (or in some instances a red LAP Identification Tag may still be used in non-centralized facilities) is placed on the animal's enclosure. This will assist the "on call" person in identifying the animal to be evaluated.
  2. Once a situation such as described above occurs, the laboratory animal veterinary staff member makes an appropriate decision for treatment. The situation is then followed by continuing communication(s) between the personnel involved until the health of the animal(s) is restored or until the animal is euthanized.

For the most part, veterinary care has not been routinely needed for fish. If sick fish are encountered, the animal is separated / isolated from others and / or euthanized. The Laboratory Animal Program staff would be contacted to facilitate a diagnosis, e.g., submission of specimens to the Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory located on the Purdue University campus. It is rare that any unusual mortality is experienced in these areas.

- **A non-LAP veterinarian may provide care as long as LAP is notified in a timely manner and medical records are accessible. This is most appropriate for unique species such as fish, amphibians, and reptiles, where a subject matter expert may be preferred.**

- For farm animals in an agricultural setting operating under an IACUC approved Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the farm/facility SOP will be followed for veterinary care. For emergencies and clinical veterinary care, please contact Purdue CVM Large Animal Ambulatory, or Equine Field Services for horses.
- For animals such as aquaculture fish and poultry, ADDL veterinary pathologists should be consulted.

\*Please note that the LAP veterinary staff have the authority to treat and/or euthanize an animal without study personnel approval if they feel the animal needs immediate attention.