

**Veterinary Care**  
**University of Tennessee Health Science Center**  
**Laboratory Animal Care Unit (LACU)**  
**October 2023**

Veterinary care for all animals used at UTHSC is provided by a staff of three full time veterinarians. The program is directed by Dr. David Hamilton DVM, DACLAM who serves as attending veterinarian (AV). Dr. Tyler Aycock is a clinical veterinarian, also with dedicated veterinary care responsibilities and serves as AV in Dr. Hamilton's absence. Dr. Brianne Hibl is a clinical veterinarian also with dedicated veterinary care responsibilities. Dr. Hamilton has more than 12 years of experience in laboratory animal medicine and is a Diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM). Dr. Aycock has over 9 years of experience in the laboratory animal medicine field and joined the LACU in 2017. Dr. Hibl has over 7 years of experience in the laboratory animal medicine field, is an ACLAM Diplomate and joined the LACU in 2018. Additional veterinary clinical staff include two veterinary technicians. Emergency call is rotated among the veterinary faculty and veterinary technicians. One veterinarian and one animal care supervisor are always on call and available for emergency care, 365 days a year. The on-call schedule is posted in each animal facility on campus and distributed to Campus Police and Facility Services. The LACU employs 15 animal care technicians who perform daily health checks on all animals housed on the UTHSC campus. Presently, 100% of animal care technicians are certified by the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS). Any abnormal findings observed in an animal are reported through an automated "Clinical Request Form" that is disseminated to all veterinary and supervisory staff via email. Reported animals are then examined by one of the veterinary staff and treatment recommendations are relayed to the principal investigator and their research staff. The veterinary staff conducts rounds of facilities on a weekly basis and report findings to the LACU Director, Dr. David Hamilton, and the LACU Director and Assistant Director of Operations, Mr. Stan Latocha and Ms. Casey Inman, respectively.