

Laboratory Animal Care Unit (LACU)

A University of Tennessee Health Science Center Institutional Core



MISSION

The LACU Core's goal is to provide an environment in which our investigators can develop, maintain and advance their specific research needs using animals. We are committed to providing quality animal care and ensuring the humane usage of animals on the UTHSC Memphis campus.

INTRODUCTION AND SERVICES

The Laboratory Animal Care Unit (LACU) functions as a full-service core supported by the Office of Research, serving all animal related research on the UTHSC campus in Memphis, TN. The core operates several facilities throughout the campus, to best serve the individual research departments and to maintain health status of the colonies. Our primary focus is to provide high-quality care and housing of study animals.

Our program and facilities are accredited by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) since 1993. Our unit is supported by two clinical veterinarians, two veterinary residents, two veterinary technicians, three supervisors and over 40 additional staff members. Administrative staff provide billing and core unit support. We are available for training, fee for service work and collaborations.

Two facets of the LACU mission are to serve as a source of expertise with regards to animal care and procedures and to provide training to the UTHSC research community. The LACU veterinary team has created ~40 standard operating procedures (SOPs) and guidelines that outline the veterinary standards for many of the common procedures performed on research animals on the UTHSC campus. These documents serve as valuable references when performing animal procedures and can also be incorporated when creating IACUC protocols.

LACU regularly provides both didactic and hands-on training in rodent handling, basic rodent procedures and aseptic surgical technique. Classes are offered 4 times per month, are held in the Coleman animal facility, and can be registered for through the HR Training Calendar. One-on-one training is also available for any specific technique or surgery research staff wish to learn. Please contact a LACU veterinarian for more information.

SERVICES

Animal Husbandry

- Housing, health status, and day-to-day care of all research animals on campus. Will assist in special housing and diet/water needs of specific research projects.

Study Procedural Space

- All facilities have contained procedure rooms within the vivariums to allow for quick access to your animals and reduced stress from transport.

Technical Services

- Project support, collaboration, and fee for service work includes: ear tagging and notching; blood collection; tail vein injections; breeding colony management; anesthesia; surgery; and post-operative care.

Animal Ordering

- Obtain animals from approved vendors (e.g., JAX, Charles River, Envigo), organize domestic and international shipments of rodents between research institutions.

Animal Imaging

- Rodent ultrasound (Vevo 2100), digital radiography.

Study Support

- IACUC protocol pre-review, study design consultation and troubleshooting, drug dosing, and species-specific training opportunities.

EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE, AND SERVICES

- Vevo 2100 - VisualSonics
- CODA Tail-Cuff Blood Pressure System - Kent Scientific Inc.
- IDEXX BioResearch - Animal health monitoring, histopathology, blood chemistry analysis
- ACAP - Bar-coded card printing and colony management system
- ACIM - Billing, VetCare application systems
- Anprolene - Ethylene oxide sterilization
- MouseOx - SPO2 and EKG monitoring
- Animal Imaging - Digital radiography, Perkin Elmer XMRS (CRB), Xenogen Spectrum (RBL)
- Abaxis VetScanHm5 - Five-part differential hematology analyzer (housed in Rm 269 CRB)

STAFF

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UTHSC RESEARCH CORES AND SHARED RESOURCES

UTHSC Institutional Cores are dedicated to the success of your project. We serve the UTHSC research community by providing access to state-of-the-art equipment and to expert consultation services.

uthsc.edu/research/institutional-cores/index.php

For more information:

Laboratory Animal Care Unit (LACU)

956 Court, Memphis, TN 38163 | 901.448.5656 | Mon. - Fri. 8AM-5PM

uthsc.edu/research/institutional-cores/lacu/

Emergency Phones

(After hours, weekends, and holidays)

Supervisor - 901.268.0190

Veterinarian - 901.448.5658