

Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter

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Arizona Branch of the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science

Are You Interested in Attending a Hands-On Rodent/Rabbit Lab?

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Arizona Branch AALAS Newsletter
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Presidents Message

Hi folks! I wanted to let you all know what is going on for the Arizona Branch. To start with our northern board member Ashley Walton has recently moved to Kentucky and resigned her position on the board. After checking the constitution the board has elected Penny Trovillion, also from W.L. Gore & Associates in Flagstaff, to serve the unexpired term in accordance with our bylaws. We look forward to working with Penny and thank her for taking on these duties.

We are working on renewing the branch membership to the Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research (SwAEBR). Although the board feels it is a good idea to renew we also feel that it is a decision the branch should make and so we want you to review the enclosed letter and information from SwAEBR and let us know either by E-mail or phone if you have a problem rejoining.

We are also in the planning stage of setting up our summer fun event and it looks like we will be doing a behind-the-scenes tour of the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson. Admission will be \$3.50 for adults, kids 5-14 are 75¢. The date for this will be June 19th at 9:30 a.m. to catch the animals while they are active in the cooler morning hours.

A picnic will follow with hamburgers and hotdogs and beverages provided by the branch. Please contact April or Grace to sign up for your side dish or dessert.

The plans for the Fall Symposium are also underway for Phoenix and we will be sharing the meeting with SwAEBR. More info to come but if you would like to volunteer to help with this give us a call. Start thinking now for possible poster or paper ideas for this meeting.

There has been some interest in having another rodent and/or rabbit hands-on lab. Before doing one we need to get some idea of who might be interested in this. An education committee has been formed and is headed by TBR Pam Morris. Please E-mail her or me if you are interested and which species in particular - Grace Aranda, President, AZ AALAS (garanda@u.arizona.edu)

Minutes of the Past Meetings

Minutes of the 3/26/99 Board Meeting

Meeting began at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Central Animal Facility at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

President Grace Aranda opened the meeting by asking Secretary/Treasurer April Kern to explain what she had found in past minutes on the Board's decision to join SwAEBR. April distributed copies of the letter received by SwAEBR and minutes from September 1997. The letter was written by Thomas Hamm and invited Arizona AALAS to become a member of SwAEBR. Dr. Hamm explained that SwAEBR is 'a non-profit organization dedicated to educating the public about the care and use of animals in biomedical research.' He asked for an annual membership contribution of \$250 to become a member and stated that membership includes a position on SwAEBR's Board of Directors for one AZ AALAS representative (Tim Martin). The minutes discussed having someone (Susan Sanders) from SwAEBR speak at the October 1997 general meeting and the board's decision to let the general membership decide if AZ AALAS joins SwAEBR.

Past-Board member Tim Martin, our current representative on SwAEBR's Board of Directors, explained why AALAS decided to join. SwAEBR's membership fees fund information packets and an Outreach Program promoting biomedical research. This program includes an essay contest in which the winner gets to work, with pay, in a research laboratory. While AALAS provides education within the biomedical field, SwAEBR educates individuals outside the field. SwAEBR is an institutionally funded association and does not have individual memberships.

Technician Branch Representative Pam Morris asked why AALAS needs to join if the University of Arizona is already a member. Dr. Martin reminded the board that AALAS is not the University of Arizona and other Arizona AALAS members are affiliated with institutions that are not members of SwAEBR.

Southern Representative Board Member Leigh Kleinert asked if the association needed a general vote for joining SwAEBR again. It was explained that last time a vote was taken at the October 1997 general meeting. Leigh suggested writing in the AZ AALAS Newsletter that the association is planning on joining SwAEBR and if any members have comments or suggestions to let a board member know. Past-President Michael Rand said that the expected letter from SwAEBR should be included in the Newsletter and the board agreed. Tim added that the letter will contain a one page summary on what SwAEBR has accomplished in the last year.

The next item was the policy for the Member and Technician of the Year Awards. Grace explained the item was originally brought up by a member who asked if it was possible to attend an AALAS Regional Meeting instead of the District 8 Meeting due to benefits to the employee and their job. Both meetings would cost AALAS the same amount for airfare and registration. Another suggestion was establishing a set amount of money to be used towards a meeting of the winners' choice. Board members also brought up two other members with the same concerns. April explained that the revised policy was written in the November 11, 1997 minutes and states 'the winner will have their primary registration (at the National member rate) and transportation paid to the next AALAS meeting held within District 8 within the following year.' Through many suggestions from the board, a new policy was determined: AALAS will pay up to \$300 to be used for transportation and registration to an educational meeting chosen by the award recipient and approved by the current AZ AALAS Board. The board also agreed that this revised policy will be available to last year's winners. The board took an official

vote and four members voted yes, one abstained and two members were absent. April suggested adding a place on the award notification letter where the recipient can write why they want to attend a certain meeting.

Future meetings were discussed: Grace said that the next meeting is the Spring General Meeting. President-Elect Dave Besselsen has arranged for Kathleen Smiler, DVM to give a talk on 'The Biology and Husbandry of Non-Human Primates.' It is scheduled for April 21, 1999 at the College of Medicine. Dr. Rand asked about costs. Grace explained that Dr. Smiler has asked to meet with Dr. Donald DeYoung and Dr. Besselsen over dinner and the board agreed to pay for Dr. Smiler's portion.

Leigh discussed ideas for the Summer Fun Event. She called a couple places where they provide trail rides. Overall, Walking Winds was the most reasonably priced. She asked about their sunset and breakfast rides in early June. An hour and a half ride at sunset is \$40-45 with dinner and \$20-22 for dinner only. Breakfast rides for the same length of time are \$29.95. Just a trail ride is \$15. Leigh also suggested another picnic at Justin's Water World, the Gaslight Theater or a behind the scenes tour of either the Reid Park Zoo or the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. The board seemed most excited about the behind the scenes tours. Grace volunteered to call the Reid Park Zoo and Leigh said she will call the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Dr. Rand brought up the Lakeside Amusement Center as an idea also.

Grace stated that the Fall General Meeting is scheduled for October 20, 1999 and Dr. Besselsen has arranged for Michael J. Schumacher, M.D. to

be our speaker. Dr. Schumacher will discuss allergies to laboratory animals.

Dr. Martin gave an update on the Fall Symposium. He said that next week there will be a SwAEBR meeting and he will approach them with the idea of combining our Symposium with their meeting. The splitting of costs will be discussed however SwAEBR is not vendor supported so AZ AALAS would need to provide the vendor room and the board agreed. He also stated that he is not sure when they are planning their meeting at this time. Grace asked Dr. Martin to call April when he receives more information.

The next item on the agenda was the Newsletter and Buyers Guide. Grace said that the first AZ AALAS Newsletter of the year has been sent out. She sent some to past members and vendors as well as some new vendors. Also, extra copies were sent to all facilities.

The Buyers Guide is close to being finished. Grace is waiting for additional information from some sponsors. To remind vendors, she noted in the Newsletter which have not renewed their advertisements. As soon as the information is received, finishing the guide should go quickly.

Grace said that there is some news from Northern Representative Board Member Ashley Walton and asked April to explain. April received an e-mail from Ashley which said that she has volunteered to be laid off so she can go back home to Kentucky. Grace and Leigh said that if this occurs, nominations may need to be taken and there will have to be another election. To get more people involved, April suggested sending out a letter with the nomination form that stated that this is a great opportunity to become more involved with AZ AALAS. The board decided to wait until Ashley's resignation is definite.

Grace explained that the board will be working on getting member Jessie Loganbill nominated for National's Technician of the Year Award. The nomination is due May 1, 1999.

April notified the board that our Corporation Annual Report and Certificate of Disclosure has been filled out and sent in. We must send this form in once a year now that we are incorporated. The fee was \$10. April also stated that the association would not need to file taxes again this year. According to Harvey Jansen, CPA, the association does not have to file taxes unless the money collected over the year plus interest equals over \$25,000.

Pam brought up some concerns from technicians. First of all, they would like to see educational classes again such as a rodent necropsy laboratory. Grace said that there once was an Educational Committee which arranged classes such as these. Grace elected Pam to be the Chairperson of this Education Committee which will also include Member Jane Criswell and Dr. Besselsen. The committee will need to meet and get a flyer together to find out peoples interests. Also, they need to determine how much the classes would cost and inventory our current supplies.

Pam also asked if AZ AALAS has decided whether to purchase the new AALAS certification manuals for the different facilities. From past board meetings, it was established that many institutions buy the certification manuals for their employees. Therefore, the board decided to table the issue until all of the revised certification manuals were available. Copies of the older versions are in the CAF library.

Another suggestion that Pam explained, was providing a list of names of people that have had experience writing papers and

creating posters that are willing to help technicians that haven't written them before. Leigh stated the interested individuals department usually provides this service. Both Dr. Rand and Leigh said that a list can be made of advisors, however the subject and the approval to go to the meeting has to be provided by the individuals supervisor. Grace said that Pam could put a call for names in the next TBR's Corner.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

Minutes of the 4/21/99 General Meeting

Meeting began at 12:05 p.m. The meeting was held at the College of Medicine in room 6120 at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

President-Elect Dave Besselsen opened the meeting with a few business items. Dr. Besselsen stated that the Arizona AALAS Education Committee is looking for people interested in rodent and/or rabbit procedure classes. He explained that a sign-up sheet is available for those who are interested.

Dr. Besselsen said the planning of the Summer Fun Event was in progress. The board is considering a behind-the-scenes tour of either Arizona Sonora Desert Museum or the Reid Park Zoo. The event will include a picnic and will take place sometime in June. The board will keep the membership informed when further details are available.

Dr. Besselsen then introduced the guest speaker, Kathleen Smiler, DVM. Dr. Smiler spoke on the 'Biology and Husbandry of Non-human Primates.' Her talk was extremely interesting and focused on zoonotic disease and prophylaxis as well as environmental enrichment.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

TBR Corner

I don't have a lot of news to report, but here are a few tidbits to chew on. We are in the planning stages of our Summer Fun Event, details to be announced as they become final.

Dr Dave Besselsen is the co-author of a poster presentation to be given by Jessie Loganbill and April Kern (who are also co-authors) at the Midwest Regional AALAS Convention in Columbia, MO from May 13-15th. Dr. Susan Wilson-Sanders will be using the same poster at the ACLAM meeting in San Antonio, TX May 3-5th. The title of the presentation is "Serologic Diagnosis of Mouse Parvo virus-1: Evaluation of Immunoassays and Effect of Mouse Strain and Age."

We have an education committee that is working on Rodent and Rabbit seminars for all who is interested. Details will be announced at a later date.

We have had a request from technicians in our branch who need to find someone for pointers on how to do a poster. If you have experience presenting posters and would be willing to be a mentor for first timers please let me know.

Well, I guess I had a little more news than I realized, next newsletter I should be able to update you on all of the above. That's all for now. If you need to contact me I am at (520)626-2785 or email me for more information at pmorris@u.arizona.edu - Pam Morris, Technician Branch Representative

A Better Feed Barrel Label

We were having difficulty preventing our feed barrel labels from becoming blurred by water and other moisture. I devised a label system that is easily updated, is

protected from moisture, and is cost effective.

I purchased a box of Avery Laser name Tags in the 3"x4" size (Avery number 5392) and, using Microsoft Word, designed a blank form for the feed and bedding barrels with all of the relevant data ready to be filled in by the technician.

Contents: _____
Milling Date: _____
Expiration Date: _____
Fill Date: _____
Liner Changed: _____
Barrel Sanitized: _____

In addition, a clean packing slip envelope slightly larger than an individual name tag is adhered to each barrel lid. Make sure that the backing for the adhesive on the leading edge, or flap, of the envelope is not removed. This allows the packing slip envelope to remain open so that the barrel label may be removed, updated and replaced as needed. When the packing slip envelope starts to get tattered or worn looking, it is peeled off and replaced. If a more complete seal is required, the packing slip flap may be sealed down after the barrel label is inserted.

This has resolved our feed and bedding label difficulties very inexpensively, and is very easy to maintain. Our IACUC was very impressed, especially when they heard about the low cost. - Laura Noll, Corvallis International, Inc, San Diego, CA

Environmental Enrichment Ideas for Primates

- As an occasional treat for small primates, spread monkey biscuits with peanut butter and dip in bird seed.
- For larger primates, take empty plastic pop bottles and throw in a few raisins,

marshmallows or peanuts. At first they may try to get the treats through the side of the bottle. They will quickly learn to stick their finger in the opening and tip the bottle up

- Freeze bananas, oranges and apples before giving them to larger primates. The treats will last that much longer and the primates also experience a different sensation: cold!
- Local grocery stores may be willing to part with old fruits or veggies. Home gardeners may be willing to part with an over abundance of veggies. Primates love sweet potatoes, which are very nutritious.
- Place fruits and vegetables on top of the cage so the primate has to work for his food.
- Don't forget those meal worms. Primates love 'em! - Amy Nunnally, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Inexpensive Ideas for Rabbit and Rodent Environmental Enrichment

Providing environmental enrichment to animals in a vivarium can be very important for the health and welfare of the animals. The belief that environmental enrichment is beneficial to and should be provided for all animals in the research setting wherever possible is gaining popularity. This is due to the opinion that environmental enrichment encourages increased mental and physical activity which is beneficial to animals, especially those that are housed individually.

Because our animals are typically used in pharmacologic evaluation of novel therapeutics, it is important that their nutrition isn't affected. Therefore the items that we chose are made with materials that have no nutritional value and are considered safe. Additionally, because these items are typically destroyed over time by use we chose inexpensive items.

We used the following items separately depending on the species and the study in which the animals are being used: Paper towel rolls (cut into two or three smaller rolls), and small Nylabone-like chew bones. Nylabones are synthetic, bone shaped items that are commonly used as chew toys for dogs of all sizes.

Paper towel rolls are cut into approximately 4-6 inch rolls for use as environmental enrichment for our rats, mice and rabbits. The rats and mice, as would be expected, shred, run through or sleep in the rolls. Rabbits throw them about their cages, chew on them, and roll them along the ground.

We find the rolls to be beneficial with rabbits that are constantly chewing on their cage doors or exhibiting other stereotypical behaviors (hay cubes are also an effective alternative in these cases).

The best thing about the paper towel rolls is their nice price - they're free! At our company, we sent an e-mail asking people to save their paper towel rolls for us, and explained that they were going to be used as animal toys. We got several questions from fellow employees about whether the animals really did play with them, but once we explained how much the animals used them, our co-workers were more than happy to help us.

We have had such resounding success with this approach that we now have a surplus of paper towel rolls. At times, we find it difficult to use them

up fast enough to keep us from being inundated.

To provide environmental enrichment for rats, we have also been using surlyn (nylon substitute) chew bones supplied by our normal feed supplier. They are relatively inexpensive and can be easily sanitized and reused. We sanitize them in the same manner as we sanitize our water bottles and sipper tubes. They are made of a substance that is innocuous and has no nutritional value.

Each bone lasts approximately one to three weeks. Rats chew on them to differing degrees, but we have had very few rats that don't chew on them at all. Within a few moments of a bone being placed in the cage, the rats are usually dragging them around.

We haven't seen evidence of the bones or rolls being ingested, but haven't performed fecal or intestinal examinations to confirm this. Typically, large amounts of tiny bits of the item are left throughout their cage, which leads us to believe that they may not ingest a significant percentage of the pieces. We do not perform GLP or GMP studies that require validation of this.

We began thinking about environmental enrichment after reading articles in several lab animal publications including *Tech Talk*, talking with colleagues, and attending the 1997 AALAS National Meeting.

These environmental enrichment items were developed and approved in conjunction with our consulting veterinarian, Dr Jeff Roberts and our Director of Biologic Development Dr Bill Rote.

We acknowledge that our ideas may not be entirely unique or original, but they were unique to our facility. We do feel that the idea for the paper towel roll source was somewhat novel and we were grateful to find the chew bones readily accessible.

Environmental enrichment is very important to lab animal health and well being. We hope more facilities will pursue forms of enrichment that will suit their species and protocols. - Janet Racciato & Laura Noll, Corvas International, Inc, San Diego, CA

(Tech Talk, February 1999)

Things We Can Learn From a Dog

1. Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joy ride.
2. Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
3. When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
4. When it's in your best interest, always practice obedience.
5. Let others know when they've invaded your territory.
6. Take naps and always stretch before rising.
7. Romp, run and play daily.
8. Eat with gusto.
9. Be loyal.
10. Never pretend to be what you're not.
11. If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it.
12. When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently.
13. Delight in the simple joy of a walk.
14. Thrive on attention and let people touch you.
15. Avoid biting when a simple growl will do.
16. On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree.
17. When you are happy, dance around and wag your entire body.
18. No matter how often you are criticized, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout. Run back and make friends. - Author Unknown

(Chicken Soup for the Pet Lover's Soul, 8/20/98)

A Letter from SwAEBR

Dear Ms Aranda:

The Board of Directors of the Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research has been pleased to have the participation of the Arizona Branch of AALAS in its educational activities. The annual membership contribution from the Arizona Branch of AALAS of \$250 is due. This contribution will be your organization's financial commitment to SwAEBR for this year. A check for the membership contribution should be made out to the Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research and sent to Suresh Savarirayan who is our Secretary/Treasurer.

A summary of SwAEBR's programs and activities during the past year is enclosed for your information. The continuing education of the public about the responsible and humane use of laboratory animals in research is essential for continued public support for biomedical research. The commitment that the Arizona Branch of AALAS has made to this mission is greatly appreciated by the Board of Directors and the institutions that they represent. If you would like additional information or would like to discuss this matter with me, please call me.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.
Sincerely, Thomas M. Hamm, PhD,
President, Southwest Association
for Education in Biomedical
Research

SwAEBR's Programs &
Accomplishments for 1998

The Southwest Association for Education in Biomedical Research was formed with the specific mission of developing and implementing a strong proactive campaign to education school children, as well as the general

public, in the vital role biomedical research plays in their everyday lives. SwAEBR is an association of institutions involved in the conduct of biomedical and other scientific research and education and the promotion of human and animal health.

SwAEBR was developed and incorporated in 1991 and was granted status as a tax exempt educational organization (501-c-3) in 1992. Ms. Joyce Baum became SwAEBR's Executive Coordinator in 1993. SwAEBR's membership includes the Arizona Branch of AALAS, Arizona State University, the Barrow Neurological Institute at St. Josephs Hospital, the Harrington Arthritis Research Institute, Mayo Clinic Scottsdale, Northern Arizona University, Sun Health Research institute and the University of Arizona.

SwAEBR conducts several programs to improve the public's understanding of how responsible and humane animal research has led to significantly improved health care for people and their animal companions.

F a c i l i t a t i n g
Communication in the research
Community. SwAEBR continues to facilitate communication between members of the research community through the distribution of information, bringing members of the community together for timely meetings, and helping to coordinate security and public relations efforts. SwAEBR's newsletter, Biomedical Research Matters, provides information about national and local events pertaining to research and science education. During the past year, information related to research and animal rights activities has been distributed to members of the Arizona research community on a day-to-day basis by email. Links with the national research community have been maintained through SwAEBR's participation in the Network of State Biomedical Research Organizations.

Activities and Programs
for Public Schools. SwAEBR has been steadily working with public school teachers to provide information and materials that will be effective in the classroom. During the past year we have provided educational materials selected for grades K-5, 6-8 and high schools to schools throughout Arizona. The materials include videotapes, posters, brochures and booklets designed to provide students with a broad overview of the benefits of biomedical research, the scientific process, and how animals used in biomedical research are cared for and protected from mistreatment. These materials have been distributed to science teachers and libraries following presentations to teachers and administrators in their schools. In the past year, Ms Baum made presentations at schools in Buckeye, Mesa, Marana and Tucson. Many teachers also had the opportunity of visiting SwAEBR's booth at the Arizona Science Teachers' Association Meeting last fall. Through these contacts, literature was distributed to over 600 individual teachers and 900 students and parents. SwAEBR also has participated in a national campaign to promote two excellent products targeted to the middle-school audience, the BioRap publication and the People and Animals United for Health Calendars, in addition to distributing other materials.

SwAEBR's annual essay contest for high school students was held again this spring. The contest, whose theme was "How Has Biomedical Research Using Animals Benefitted an Animal, You Someone You Know", drew entries from the Phoenix and Tucson areas. Many excellent essays were received. Each year the winners have their essays

published in an issue of the newsletter. Winners in this contest were awarded six-week internships in research laboratories. The winning students worked in labs at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale in the Phoenix area, and in the diagnostic lab of University Animal Care at the University of Arizona in Tucson. An additional student from last year's contest will take an internship this summer in the Phoenix area. These laboratory experiences have proven to be great experiences in which the students receive the opportunity of learning first hand about the process of science.

Educating the Public and Community. SwAEER has provided information to the community regarding biomedical research whenever possible. College and university students are an important target in this effort and representatives of SwAEER have provided assistance to students and faculty from Arizona universities and community colleges seeking information about the use of animals in biomedical research.

If you have any comments or questions about the Arizona Branch renewing its SwAEER membership annually please call or write your board members (see front page).

Someone You Should Meet

Name: Jane Criswell
Birthday: June 16
Position Title: Supervisor
Employer: University of Arizona
Education Level: Bachelor of Science
Certification Level: RLAT
Years in AALAS: 21 years
Most Memorable Moment in AALAS: Giving cat seminar at National AALAS meeting in Indianapolis in 1980
Best part of my job: Working with animals

Toughest part of my job: Letting employees go

Most embarrassing moment: High school graduation

My family: Husband, Russ and son, Russell age 7

Pets: 3 dogs (Shadow, Zorro & Lady), cat (RC), 2 hamsters (Dale & Lucky) and fish

Hobbies and interests: Camping, fishing, reading, embroidery and family activities

Heroes: my brother & John F. Kennedy

The one thing I would change about myself: Be more assertive

Personality traits I admire: Good listener, sense of humor, honesty

Personality traits I dislike: Overbearing, Defensive, Domineering

People assume I am: Quiet

What drives me crazy: Other drivers

I hope I never have to: Outlive my child

My fantasy is: Win the lottery and retire

Connecticut United for Research Excellence, Inc, C.U.R.E. and BioRap are now available online. Visit their websites at www.curen.net where you will find current information and reports about biomedical research in Connecticut along with www.biorap.org You'll find popular health and life science learning enrichment tools for teachers & students.

Animal Activists Suspected in Lab Damage By Jim Adams

Vandals broke into two University of Minnesota buildings early Monday, destroyed laboratory equipment and took more than 100 research animals in an act that officials said would seriously

impede research on Alzheimer's and other diseases. The Animal Liberation Front, an international animal-rights group that has been active in Minnesota, claimed responsibility Monday afternoon. No arrests have been made.

University officials said work on brain cancer and diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's suffered serious setbacks that could take several years and more than \$100,000 to restore. Insurance adjusters are working with researchers to tally damages at the two buildings, Lions Research Building and Elliott Hall. The university is well known among research institutions for developing mice that mimic traits found in Alzheimer's patients. Last year, about 152,000 animals were used in all kinds of research at the university; the vast majority were mice and rats.

Several university professors and graduate students said their work has been delayed by the attack, although some had backup records. Officials noted that none of the animals taken would cause a public health risk. Karen Hsiao, a molecular biologist, said her work has been set back about two years because vandals took some lab mice brought in from South America that had been carefully bred for generations to develop Alzheimer's symptoms, such as memory loss. "There was evidence that they could resist the disease," she said, "but now they are gone."

Hsiao's work with the mice has gained national attention. They are used in research experiments around the country, and scientists have hailed her work as a step toward developing treatments for the disease. Alzheimer's, which has no cure, affects 4 million Americans, according to the National Institutes of Health.

But to the ALF vandals, work such as Hsiao's is inhumane. One of their slogans painted on a fourth-floor wall near a Lions lab read: "Vivisection is scientific fraud." Hsiao said she is frustrated with such thinking because "they don't realize that we are doing this research to try to help people with Alzheimer's disease to find a cure. The whole field of Alzheimer's research has been revolutionized by these mice because we can now test a hypothesis in one or two years in mice," she said.

"The mice will speed up the search for a cure and enable us to do experiments that we could never dream of doing in people," she said. "There is no other model that is as widely accepted in the scientific community as the transgenic mouse models." Dr. Tim Ebner added, "All research goes through a committee to ensure that there is no unnecessary suffering or trauma or discomfort to the animals."

University police are being assisted by the FBI and state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension in the investigation. University Police Chief Joy Rikala asked anyone with information to call 612-624-3550. Rikala said no outside doors were forced open at either building, and it appears that the vandal or vandals scaled the west side of Lions and entered through a roof hatch. She said the two buildings have locked outside doors but no security officers, other than university police who drive by.

ALF sent e-mail messages Monday afternoon to a number of animal-rights groups and took credit for the vandalism, said Kevin Kjonaas, an ALF spokesman. The group's e-mail said its followers "rescued" 27 pigeons, 48 mice, 36 rats and five salamanders from Elliott Hall, and also took computer files and research notebooks. Psychology Prof. Matt McGue estimated that more than 100 animals were taken from Elliott, including 25 pigeons, 35 mice and

unknown numbers of rats and salamanders. Some of the pigeons were found in the building.

Kjonaas, of Minneapolis, said ALF vandals remain anonymous and mask themselves because they "are committing more serious crimes." He said the university raid was done shortly before International Week for Laboratory Animals in mid-April to show that ALF remembers them no matter what week it is. He said the university was hit because it is a large animal research institution and conducts what ALF considers some of the most painful and invasive research on animals. According to the National Association for Biomedical Research, a group based in Washington, D.C., that tracks such cases, April tends to be an active time for animal-rights protests because it has been dubbed World Laboratory Animal month by activists.

Rikala, who has been chief for six years, said she's been aware of ALF protesting on campus, but never in a destructive way. "I've never seen vandalism to this extent here," she said. Though there have been no protests for about a month, in February one student seeking dialogue on animal-rights issues dangled himself from the 17th floor of Moos Tower for five hours. Two days earlier, six protesters locked their heads together to protest the work of primate researcher Marilyn Carroll.

Freeman Wicklund, executive director of the nonprofit Animal Liberation League -- which he said is often confused with ALF -- said he thinks incidents such as Monday's hurt the movement. Wicklund, who started the Student Organization for Animal Rights when he was a student at the university, said dialogue is his preferred method. "We hope everybody realizes that the visible minority within the animal-rights community doesn't represent the

broader movement," he said. "A lot of people who care about animals are upset about the actions."

(Minnesota Star Tribune, 4/6/99)

U of A Not Monkeying Around with Lab Animal Safety By Sarah Perry

In an effort to prevent the spread of diseases, the University of Arizona has begun implementing tougher safety standards for employees and students who work with laboratory animals.

The revised animal safety codes, known collectively as the Occupational Health/Animal Hazard Program, are designed to educate all students, researchers and caretakers about how to handle laboratory and farm animals safely.

The federally mandated program will train anyone working with or around animals and screen them for diseases. Michael Cusanovich, University of Arizona Vice President for Research, said the new program will apply to between 700 and 1,000 students, staff and faculty who work with animals, compared with the 30 staff members previously included.

"A lot of kids in the undergraduate program do research in the medical school - they work with animals," Cusanovich said.

The safety program applies to students working on independent studies and thesis work, in addition to researchers and faculty who work with the animals, he said.

Researchers and caretakers must submit to preliminary wellness examination, which can be used to compare changes in health if they are bitten, scratched or stung by an animal.

The program also requires basic vaccinations, such as tetanus and rabies for some workers.

"If we have a health history on you, we can treat changes," Cusanovich said.

The program was mandated by the federal government to ensure the safety of both people and animals, he said.

"The federal government goes with a zero tolerance, zero risk model," Cusanovich said. "It's more preventative than anything else."

Those who work with animals must fill out a survey to determine which safety precautions they should take.

"A lot of people will fill out the survey and be told they don't have to do anything," Cusanovich said. "But we won't know until we know what's being done with our animals."

Dr. Michael Rand, animal hazard program supervisor, said animal workers will be placed in one of three risk categories.

"It goes by the animal species they'll be working with (as to) what the danger level they're in," Rand said.

There will be a designated "safety person" for each lab, and that person will receive the bulk of the training, he said.

"The training is a series of 1 to 2-hour classes, depending on what category of risk you fall into," Rand said.

In addition, the safety person will be required to assess his own lab on a regular basis to ensure it is safe. Rand said since the program does not aim to be intrusive, it will not send inspectors to verify that the guidelines are followed. "It is incumbent upon each faculty member to take this program upon themselves," Rand said.

He added that the program was intended to give each department the know-how and information to keep within the guidelines itself.

"We don't have a policing program," Rand said.

A safety person must be named in every research proposal. If the person has not completed the required training, the research will be suspended.

For the past 30 years, the UA only required University Animal Care Department caretakers to adhere to specific safety standards.

"It was up to the individual research labs as to what they were going to do to protect their personnel," said Dr Susan Sanders, director of the University Animal Care Department.

The program has extended the requirements, in accordance with federal regulations, to include any students or researchers in any department who come into contact with animals or animal tissues.

Federal policy requires any facility that does animal work to adhere to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*. The recently revised Guide was written by the Institute of Laboratory Animal Resources, a division of the National Research Council.

"It lays out the description," Sanders said, "But it is up to the individual institution as to how they carry it out."

The Guide requires an Animal Care and Use Committee to make sure animal experiments are conducted humanely.

The UA's committee members, who are appointed by the vice president for research, monitor animal research to make sure the guidelines are followed.

"Fines are levied when (procedures are) not adhered to," Rand said.

The committee will also be in charge of fining departments that do not comply with the safety standards.

The UA's program will include training on prevention and safety precautions, such as education on diseases that can be

transmitted from animals to humans.

For instance, biology students working on field experiments run the risk of contracting Hanta Virus Pulmonary Syndrome, which is carried by rodents. Hanta has never been a problem at the UA, but Sanders said it is possible.

"In California, in 1993-94, there were some faculty members who actually died because no preventative measures were taken," she said. "This is rare, but it happens."

It is not uncommon for lab workers to be bitten by animals.

Cusanovich said UA has had a number of incidents, such as minor scratches and bites, that required treatment.

But with proper safety measures, the results could be more serious, he said.

"Two or three (people) worldwide die each year from working with animals," Cusanovich said.

Sanders said there are several research institutions in which the students do not receive preliminary shots and, if attacked, require serious treatment.

But under the new program, UA students and researchers will be safer if bitten or scratched.

"We would just need a booster - or nothing at all," Sanders said.

She added that the Animal Hazard Program also keeps animals safe, since certain human diseases and viruses are transmissible to animals.

"Monkeys are very susceptible to measles - we get measles vaccinations," Sanders said. The program will also train workers how to deal with other medical conditions such as trauma and explain when to change clothes after exposure to animals, or when to wear protective clothing.

"We want to make sure that people who do things with animals know how to do it properly," she said.

Under the Animal Hazard Program individuals, departments and colleges will not have to fund their own safety programs.

Sanders said it is too much of a burden on individual colleges to pay for careful animal safety programs.

"(We) didn't want for people not to do it because they didn't have the money," she said.

Under the new program, the UA Department for Research will pay the \$100,000 to \$200,000 annual cost for animal safety training procedures.

Cusanovich said it should take a year or two to get everyone enrolled in the program.

"Our goal now is to get people aware of the program," he said. - AZ Daily Wildcat

(App AALAS News, 3/99)

Job Opening

Animal Technician - W.L. Gore & Associates, Flagstaff, AZ

Shift: Tuesday-Saturday 7:00-3:30 p.m. Possibility of shift change

This position emphasizes animal husbandry duties with several species of animals, including, but not limited to rabbits, dogs, pigs, goats, sheep, rats and mice. Primary duties include cage washing, cage assembly, feeding and watering of animals, general observations or animals, high pressure hosing, laundry, general housekeeping duties, documentation of tasks, as well as, interaction with facility veterinarian and staff, and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) development, implementation and revision.

Skills/Qualifications: Desire to work with animals. Must have good oral and written

communication skills, be able to follow written SOP's, be self motivated and work well in a team. Must be able to work flexible hours, holidays and weekends and be available for on-call duties. Must participate fully in work area/task rotation schedules and meetings. Must participate in exercise-/strengthening program. Must have health physical baseline, must pass job specific physical demand pre-screen and participate in an occupational health program. Must have no known animal allergies to species that you will be in contact with. Must pass security background check.

For more information contact W.L. Gore & Associates, POB 2400, Flagstaff, AZ 86003 or <http://www.gore.com>

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Covance Research Products, the largest producer of SPF New Zealand White rabbits announces the establishment of its new rabbit distribution center in Richmond, California. From this facility, Specific Pathogen Free New Zealand White rabbits are immediately available for local delivery anywhere on the West Coast. Covance also offers other rabbit models, including Dutch Belted, Watanabe Heritable Hyperlipidemic, Inbred NZW, and Californian.

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for more information regarding this new facility or any of our laboratory animal models, immunology services, or related offerings.

Harlan Shuttle X to Provide Complimentary Transit

All attendees flying into the Indianapolis International Airport to attend the 1999 National AALAS Meeting in Indianapolis, Indiana, will once again be greeted by helpful Harlan personnel for transportation to their hotel near the Indianapolis Convention Center. For the tenth year, Harlan Sprague Dawley, Inc., will offer complimentary hotel transportation service.

Harlan personnel will be stationed at each of the terminals at the Indianapolis International Airport, on Saturday November 6, and Sunday, November 7, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Harlan hosts and hostesses will guide you toward the Harlan Shuttle registration tables, assist you with your luggage, and escort you to the nearest Harlan Shuttle van. If your flight arrives outside of the times above, please call Leah in the Harlan Marketing Department at (317)353-8810 x 240.

We appreciate the support you have given the us over the years and are pleased to offer this service again. We look forward to seeing you!

Upcoming Branch Meetings

6/19/99 - Summer Fun Event - Behind-the-scenes tour of Reid Park Zoo & Picnic - Tucson
9/99 - Fall Symposium - Phoenix
10/20/99 - Fall General Meeting - Michael J. Schumacher, MD, Prevention & Treatment of Allergies To Lab Animals - Tucson - AHSC 4120
12/99 - December Installation Event - TBA

Arizona AALAS Summer Fun Event

Reid Park Zoo Behind-the-Scenes Tour & Picnic

When: June 19, 1999, 9:30 a.m.

Where: Reid Park Zoo then Ramada 3

Who: Arizona AALAS Members & Families

Cost: \$3.50 for adults, 75¢ for kids 5-14

Branch will provide hamburgers, hotdogs and beverages. We ask that members sign up for salads and dessert items by calling 626-4622 or emailing akern@u.arizona.edu or garanda@u.arizona.edu

Hope to see you there!

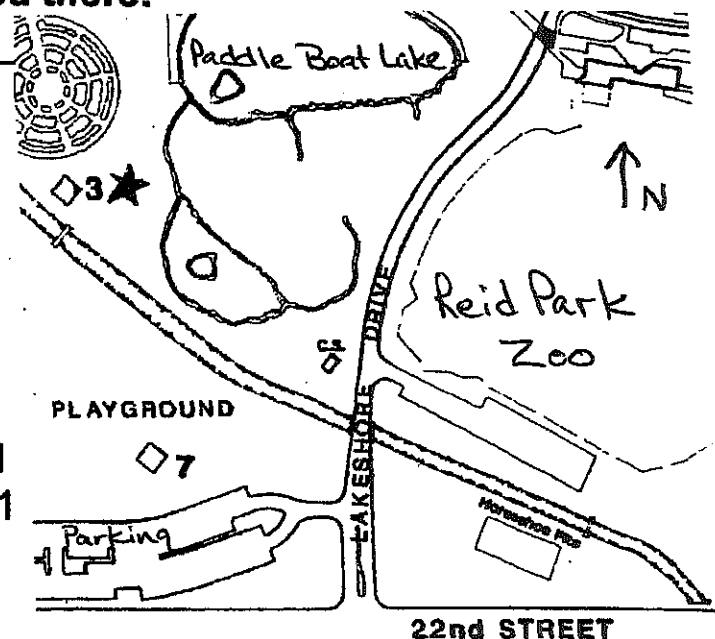
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Number attending: Adults _____ Kids _____

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Make checks payable to Arizona AALAS and mail to: P.O. Box 210101, Tucson, AZ 85721
Attn: April, registration due by June 16.



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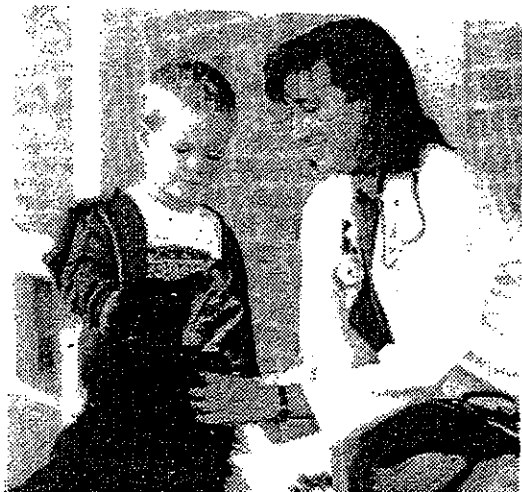
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Parvo Virus



Vomiting and diarrhea from a variety of causes has long been a problem in dogs. But in the spring of 1978, a world-wide outbreak of these symptoms struck in epidemic proportions. The disease struck suddenly, spread rapidly and affected dogs of all ages. It attacks the lining of the intestinal tract, causing vomiting, foul-smelling and usually bloody diarrhea, depression, dehydration and, frequently, death. Another form of canine parvo virus causes sudden death from heart disease in very young puppies.

How has animal research helped dogs with parvo virus?

Canine parvo virus, not previously recognized, was isolated in dogs in the fall of 1978. The use of dogs in finding the cause, diagnosis, transmission and prevention of canine parvo virus infection was essential because this particular disease is not reproducible in small laboratory animals. However, research soon proved the disease is similar to feline distemper for which an effective vaccine is available. This discovery led to the development of a vaccine for canine parvo virus within a year of the initial epidemic. This is one of the greater success stories of modern veterinary medicine. Because the new vaccine was intended for dogs, it had to be carefully tested in research dogs to demonstrate its safety and efficacy before it was released for use on privately owned pets. The vaccine proved effective and checked the outbreak almost immediately.

Is animal research still necessary on canine parvo virus?

No vaccine works 100% of the time. More study is necessary to determine why some dogs do not respond to the vaccine and therefore still acquire the disease after vaccination. Parvo virus continues to cause sickness and death, especially in puppies 6 to 16 weeks of age. Puppies kept in large colonies or kennels also run greater risk of getting the disease.

What's ahead in canine parvo virus research?

Researchers continue to look for ways to treat and prevent parvo virus in dogs not helped by vaccination. The study of the disease in laboratory dogs is essential to their search. More effective means of treatment and prevention are possible only through research with dogs and other animals with related disorders.

For more information on this subject write to:
CFAAR, Coalition For Animals & Animal Research,
University of Arizona, Bldg 101, Tucson, AZ 85721



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