

Two white mice are shown in the background of the page. One is on the left, looking towards the camera, and the other is on the right, looking slightly away. They are both fluffy and appear to be in a laboratory setting.

# Office of Animal Resources

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**T**he Office of Animal Resources provides professional oversight and management of the University's laboratory animal care and use program, including all research and educational activities using laboratory animals.

## **Guidelines for Humane Care**

Animals used in research must be provided with humane care and an environment conducive to their welfare for both ethical and scientific reasons. The Office oversees a comprehensive animal care and use program designed to provide this in support of the research mission of the University. It is responsible for management and operation of centralized animal-research facilities of 39,000 square feet located at four campus sites. A staff of animal caretakers and technical personnel provides daily care of laboratory animals. Veterinarians with special training and credentials in laboratory animal medicine oversee the veterinary-care program.

The Office provides professional guidance to the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), which is charged with reviewing all research protocols involving laboratory animals. The IACUC's goals and legal obligations are to ensure that all activities involving laboratory animals are carefully reviewed and conducted in accordance with the highest standards of humane care for the animals used by its scientists in pursuit of medical advances. Currently, 497 protocols have an "Approved" status, with 141 principal investigators associated with these protocols.

## **Occupancy**

Approximately 99% of the animals used in research are rodents, a percentage that reflects the national

trend for species used in biomedical research and education. There has been a 1.0% increase in occupancy over the past fiscal year. Our average occupancy for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2008 was 10,350 cages. Our average occupancy for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2009 was 10,452 cages.

## **Accreditation**

The animal care and use program and facilities at Jefferson are accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC International). Accreditation is recognition of the high standards maintained by Jefferson. We also receive periodic unannounced inspections by the United States Department of Agriculture to enforce Preparing for the Future.

Animal research continues to be an integral part of Jefferson University. It is interesting to note that even though federal funding levels have decreased, the numbers of animals used in research in Jefferson has remained stable. The Office of Animal Resources continues to work with central administration to consider options which will meet the faculty's needs. Every funding opportunity for facility improvements has been evaluated. Multiple grant applications have been submitted requesting stimulus funds, with matching institutional dollars, to upgrade the animal facilities. This type of progressive approach to facility needs is a positive indicator of the institution's dedication to the humane care and treatment of laboratory animals and the quality research that leads to scientific gains that benefit people and animals.

**Judith S. Daviau, DVM**

Director, Office of Animal Resources