Center for Comparative Medicine (CCM)
Center for Comparative Medicine: Facts for you to know!

- What is ‘Comparative Medicine’?
  - *A distinct discipline of experimental medicine that uses animal models of human and animal disease in translational and biomedical research.*
  - At its most basic level, it is the study of animals to learn more about humankind

- AAALAC, International (Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care) accredited since 1985

- PHS Assurance- receive federal funding

- USDA registration- use USDA covered species in biomedical research
CCM’s Mission

The Center for Comparative Medicine is a core service, teaching and training unit dedicated to supporting humane animal care and use in research and education at Northwestern University.

We provide quality animal care, and promote animal welfare and regulatory compliance through efficient operations and positive collaborations with faculty, students and staff.

We Care for the Animals that Care for Us All
CCM Responsibilities:

• Support faculty using animals

• Oversee the humane care and use of animals

• House research animals, maintain support space and services for the use of animals

• Provide training in the care and use of animals
Partnership with the IACUC

• IACUC and CCM veterinarians work together to:
  – Review, approve, and provide assistance with ASPs
  – Perform semi-annual inspections
  – Generate/modify policies
  – Generate/modify training

• New research personnel work with both the IACUC and CCM
Types of Animal Facilities

- **Centralized** - CCM “assigned” and managed space

- **Decentralized** - Typically department “assigned” space but CCM manages animal care

- **Satellite** - Department or PI “assigned” space where PI manages all animal care. Requires IACUC review and approval. PI must justify why use of a satellite is necessary versus animals housed in a CCM managed space. A satellite is defined when rats and mice are kept in the space for greater than 24 hrs and USDA covered species are kept in the space for greater than 12 hrs.
How is CCM Organized?

- Veterinary
- Husbandry
- Procurement, Receiving, Census
- Business Office
- Quality & Training
Veterinary Staff

• Attending veterinarian is a mandatory member of the IACUC
  – CCM veterinarians review ASPs and provide guidance to researchers

• Provide training and assistance during study-related procedures

• Manage surgical suites and other facility resources

• Organize quarantine and rodent sentinel programs

• Organize enrichment program for all research animal

• Treat animal health problems
Husbandry Staff

- Comprised of Animal Care Technicians (ACTs), Cage Wash Technicians, Group Leaders, Supervisors, & Managers
- Perform **daily checks** on **every animal** housed in CCM facilities
- Report animal health problems to the Veterinary Staff
- Clean, stock, and otherwise maintain CCM facilities
- Work with the Procurement, Receiving, & Census (PRC) Office to capture weekly census of all research animals
PRC Staff

- **Procurement**: Place orders and provide updates on the availability of new research animals. Coordinate the movement of research animals within and out of the facilities.

- **Receiving**: Initially receive shipments of animals

- **Census**: Maintain a database tracking all animal housing activities.
  - Per Diem (by the day) charge for every cage, pen and tank housed in facilities.
  - Census is taken on Friday’s with the assistance of Husbandry ACTs
Business Office

- Prepare monthly invoices to bill laboratories

- Bills are comprised of the following:
  - Research animal procurement costs
  - Per diem costs
  - Fees
  - Special service charges
Quality & Training Staff

• Provide orientation sessions for new research personnel

• Provide training on:
  – Specific pieces of equipment
  – Technical procedures
  – Work in specific areas within the animal facility

• Train new and existing CCM staff members

• Setup security access for anyone entering the vivarium

• Coordinate TB testing for anyone accessing areas with non-human primates
Online Resources

• Online training provides easy access to important information
  – AALAS Learning Library
  – Can be viewed as often as one wishes, in a quick but secure fashion
  – Especially convenient for research personnel on the Evanston Campus
  – Great resource for new PIs and their staff

• Information on and access to CCM’s Rodent Technical Service Unit (RTSU) is also available on the website. The following services are offered currently:
  – Drug Dosing Studies/Compound Administration
  – Blood Collection
  – Tail Biopsy
  – Administration of Special Feed or Fluid
  – Weighing of Animals
Questions?