

Research Animal Care during COVID-19

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RESEARCH MATTERS **LIVE**



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Office of Research

URAR Service Reduction Plan

- Current operations at threat level YELLOW
 - Allows decreased frequency of
 - Cage changing
 - Sanitation
 - CAF and VBF have instituted some reductions
 - Check with facility supervisor for changes in the room where your animals are housed
- Documents have been distributed widely:
 - URAR Service Reduction Plan – high level plan
 - URAR Modified Care Plan – animal care details
 - Documents can be requested from M.A. McCrackin at MA.McCrackin@uga.edu.



Threat level	Triggers	URAR Plan	Researcher Plan
Yellow	UGA declaration of halt on research OR URAR Staffing at <u>approximately 70%</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancel all in-person training classes and facility tours (no new vivarium access requests processed) • No rodent technical services provided • No animal orders, imports, or exports processed, and no animal transports among facilities. <i>Exceptions may be permitted with written permission from the VP for Research. Please forward when ordering. Research involving the current pandemic will be prioritized.</i> • Current orders, transfers, imports and exports may be reviewed and subject to cancellation. Research personnel requesting the service will be notified of cancellation. • Decrease frequency of rodent IVC cage changes (from every 2 to every 3 weeks) • All personnel begin conserving Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other critical supplies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay nonessential studies or those requiring intense monitoring (e.g., surgery, infection) • Cull animals not needed and begin breeding solely to maintain valuable colonies. • Flag most valuable rat and mouse cages (e.g., breeders of unique strains, active experimental) as “VIP”. <i>See area supervisor to receive URAR “VIP” cards and instructions</i> • Volunteer to URAR Director if PI or her/his lab is able to contribute personnel to husbandry of PI’s colonies and a schedule will be developed prior to collaborative care implementation. • Cryopreserve irreplaceable rodent lines (e.g., sperm, embryos), if possible. • All personnel begin conserving Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other critical supplies



Threat level	Triggers	Dogs, cats, goats, sheep (kennel / floor housing)	Cats (cages)	Rodents (IVC)	Rodents (static caging)	Ferret (conventional)	Ferret (IVC)
Yellow	<p>UGA declaration of halt on research</p> <p>OR</p> <p>URAR Staffing at <u>approximately 70%</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily activity per species and spot cleaning will be standard per SOP Primary enclosure, enrichment, and food/water bowl: sanitize ≤ 8 weeks Secondary enclosure, procedure room, corridor, feed container: sanitize ≤ 12 weeks (including building 11) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily activity will be standard per SOP Cage change, enrichment: spot sanitize every 3 weeks; full cage change ≤ 6 weeks Secondary enclosure, procedure room, corridor, feed container: sanitize ≤ 12 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary enclosure & all accessories: sanitize every 3 weeks Supervisors may use discretion in using sanitizable shelters vs disposable paper enrichment Secondary enclosure, procedure room, feed container: sanitize ≤ 12 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move any possible animals from static caging to IVCs Primary enclosure, enrichment: sanitize weekly Wire bar lids, enrichment, racks: sanitize ≤ 6 weeks Secondary enclosure, procedure room, and food container: sanitize every ≤ 12 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary enclosure, enrichment: sanitize ≤ 6 weeks Reduce scraping cages to once weekly and continue paper changes ≥ 2 times weekly Secondary enclosure, procedure room, feed container: sanitize ≤ 12 weeks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary enclosure, enrichment: sanitize ≤ 2 weeks Secondary enclosure, procedure room, feed container: sanitize ≤ 12 weeks



STAFFING

- All who can are working from home
 - Front Office
 - Billing, Animal Orders – Kirsten Gunter, kirsteng@uga.edu
 - AnOps, facility access – Brittney Haynes, bahaynes@uga.edu
 - Back-up for others – Kristy Thrasher, kmthrash@uga.edu
 - Animal Facilities
 - Call facility supervisor posted phone number for help
 - Some facilities have rotating supervisor schedules posted near supervisor office
 - Staff on alternating schedules – fewer in facilities / day
 - Veterinary Staff
 - Vet techs on campus 8-noon each day; ARVET@UGA.EDU
 - Veterinarians available by cell phone during **business hours**.
 - **Emergency hours:** Dial 706-542-7204



PPE Reduction / Elimination

- Instituted reduced PPE in Coverdell March 26
 - Eliminated use of shoe covers, hair bonnets, face masks, and observation gowns with the exception of observation gowns in quarantine and ABSL2.
 - Use dedicated scrubs and shoes, along with sleeve covers, gloves, and forceps, for cage changing and animal manipulations inside biosafety cabinets or cage changing stations.
- New PPE guidance under development
 - For other URAR facilities
 - More in coming weeks



SARS-CoV-2 Research

- Several COVID-19 related projects approved or under review
- URAR vets can assist with protocol development before submission to IACUC
- Any animal models requiring live virus challenge will be housed in the AHRC
- Careful coordination with AHRC leadership needed if vaccination phase in URAR & challenge in AHRC

