

ORIGINAL

ARMED FORCES RADIOBIOLOGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
DEFENSE ATOMIC SUPPORT AGENCY
BETHESDA, MARYLAND 20014

AFRRI STAFF MEMORANDUM
NUMBER 350-4

18 November 1968

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Animal Experimentation

1. PURPOSE. To define responsibilities, and outline procedures for optimum utilization and acceptable health and welfare standards for experimental animals, management of supporting items and facilities and control of zoonotic diseases in support of the total research effort within the Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES.

a. The Staff Clinic, USNH, is responsible for the treatment regimen for all animal bite patients.

b. Responsibilities of the Veterinary Support Office (VSO):

- (1) Advising, demonstrating, and monitoring the problems pertaining to veterinary medicine.
- (2) Providing veterinary medical and/or surgical support and/or microbiological support to investigators on an appointment basis.
- (3) Assuring the provision of research quality animals; inspecting sources of supply for animals when deemed necessary; performing preacceptance examinations on all animals; monitoring the receiving, processing, and standardization of all experimental animals.

(a) "Standardization" of laboratory animals involves quarantine of newly procured animals during which time they receive appropriate selection, treatment, and immunization so as to provide a clinically normal animal. Adequate clinical records shall be initiated and maintained on such animals. The maximum mortality rate expected in screening and sacrificing animals during the standardization period is as follows:

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Special: DASA, OAPA (2)

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rats and mice	- 1 percent
guinea pigs	- 2 percent
rabbits	- 3 percent
cats	- 8 percent
dogs	- 3 percent
primates	- 3 percent

(b) "Standardization period" is the minimum period of quarantine during which standardization is effected. This period varies with species:

rabbits and rodents	- 10 days
cats	- 21 days
primates	- 60 days
dogs	- 14 days (Hazleton-Saunders')
miniature swine	- 14 days

(4) Notifying the responsible investigator of all animals on chronic experiment requiring immediate veterinary medical treatment.

(5) Advising the Supply Division on animal procurement matters and specifications for all animals.

(6) Maintaining supply of surgical items, radiographic items and equipment needed for postmortem examinations. Specialized items will be provided by the using department.

(7) Controlling zoonoses by means of isolation and appropriate immunization of all research animals.

(8) Assuring that all personnel adhere to the principles and standards of laboratory animal care, including the humane treatment of research animals.

(9) Advising and monitoring the Animal Support Branch of the Logistics Department (LOG) on the procurement and use of animal cages, feed supplies, bedding and supplies, and equipment which are in normal and frequent use and have applicability to the majority of experimental procedures.

(10) Assuring safe operating procedures of the animal radiograph facility.

c. Responsibilities of Using Department:

(1) Preparing requests for procuring animals on AFRRI Form 18 and submitting to Facilities Division of LOG. The standardization period and mortality rate will be observed in determining date of animal assignment and number of animals requested.

(2) Assuring that personnel comply with DASA Circular Number 350-1 and DASA Circular Number 145-1, prior to releasing information regarding use of animals in research. All requests for information concerning the use of animals in research projects will be coordinated with the Information Officer (DSIE).

(3) Assuring that the surgical suite will be utilized only by personnel trained in aseptic surgical techniques who will observe the same rigid principles common to all surgical suites.

(4) Removing all equipment and thoroughly clean the surgical suite and the experimental work area upon completion of experiment or surgical procedures.

(5) Coordinating with the Head, VSO on animal projects requiring support surgery.

(6) Responsibility for the training and conduct of its research assistants.

(7) Assuring humane treatment of animals utilized within their jurisdiction in accordance with this memorandum and other recognized principles of laboratory animal care.

(8) Notification in writing to the Facilities Division of LOG of inter-departmental animal transfers.

(9) Coordinating with the Head, Animal Support Branch of LOG on animal projects requiring animal restraint.

(10) Providing postoperative care of anesthetized animals until recovered.

(11) Practicing prompt euthanasia, if practicable, of animals upon completion of an acute experiment.

(12) Dispose of animal carcasses containing radioactive materials according to the standard operating procedures promulgated by the Radiological and Industrial Safety Department.

d. Responsibilities of Animal Support Branch of LOG

(1) Providing assistance to VSO for postmortem examinations, radiographic procedures, surgical procedures, restraint of animals, treatment of animals, and other related procedures.

(2) Maintaining all AFRRI animal colonies and a weekly animal inventory.

(3) Coordinating requests for animals and necessary supporting items in accordance with AFRRI Staff Memorandum 410-1. Maintaining supply of supporting items such as cages, feed supplies, detergents, disinfectants, cleaning utensils, and other related supplies and equipment.

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(4) Allocating animal space to permit maximum utilization of facilities. The allocating of animal space shall conform to optimum caging and housing requirements of laboratory animals as determined by VSO. Priority for space in the animal colony shall be decided by DDS whenever conflicts in space requirements occur.

(5) Perform euthanasia of animals under the direction of the Head, VSO when written request is submitted by the investigator.

(6) Disposal of all animal carcasses on a regular basis brought to the necropsy refrigerator.

(7) Notify the Head, VSO of any health problems or variation in the principles and standards of laboratory animal care.

3. PROCEDURES

a. Hygiene and Protection

Before authorized personnel enter animal rooms or animal experiment work areas, they will:

- (1) Replace street clothing or cover street clothing with clean surgical gowns or similar type other garments.
- (2) Wear face masks (optional in dog, cat and swine rooms).
- (3) Wash hands.
- (4) Wear surgical (or disposable) gloves when working with primates. (Use of gloves when working with other laboratory animals is optional).
- (5) Only qualified personnel will catch and restrain laboratory animals regardless of species. In addition to general hygiene procedures listed above, the following special protective items will be worn when indicated:

Long sleeved garment
Goggles
Stapled leather gloves

b. Quarantine of Animals

An animal which has inflicted a bite wound will be quarantined for ten days under the observation of the Head, VSO, who will release the animal to the responsible investigator if no symptoms of zoonotic disease appear. VSO will notify Head, Staff Clinic, NNMC, immediately upon suspicion or diagnosis of a zoonotic disease in the animal which has inflicted a bite wound on any person.

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c. Treatment of Wounds

Wounds inflicted by laboratory animals will be treated as follows:

- (1) Apply hydrogen peroxide to wound for three to five minutes.
- (2) Scrub wound with soft brush with Phex (Center Chemical) for three minutes.
- (3) Cover wound with sterile gauze.
- (4) Notify supervisor and report immediately to the Staff Clinic, USNH, for additional treatment and observation.

d. Visitors and Tours

Only authorized persons will visit any AFRRI animal facility. Tours will be approved by the Director, AFRRI. (VSO)

OFFICIAL

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