

Laboratory Animal Care Unit (LACU)

A University of Tennessee Health Science Center Institutional Core



The LACU Core's goal is to provide an environment in which our investigators can develop, maintain and advance their specific research needs using animals. We are committed to providing quality animal care and ensuring the humane usage of animals on the UTHSC campus.

Introduction

The Laboratory Animal Care Unit (LACU) functions as a full-service core supported by the Office of Research, serving all animal related research on the UTHSC campus. The core operates several facilities throughout the campus, to best serve the individual research departments and to maintain health status of the colonies. Our primary focus is to provide high-quality care and housing of study animals. Our program and facilities are accredited by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) since 1993. Our unit is supported by two clinical veterinarians, two veterinary residents, one veterinary technician, three supervisors and over 30 additional staff members. Administrative staff provide billing and core unit support. We are available for training, fee for service work and collaborations.

Services

- 1. Animal Husbandry:** Housing, health status, and day-to-day care of all research animals on campus. Will assist in special housing and diet/water needs of specific research projects.
- 2. Study Procedural Space:** Most facilities have contained procedure rooms within the vivariums to allow for quick access to your animals and reduced stress from transport.
- 3. Technical Services:** Project support, collaboration, and fee for service work. Includes: ear tagging and notching; blood collection; breeding colony management; anesthesia; surgery; and post-operative care. Management of sentinel program.
- 4. Animal Import and Export:** Obtain animals from standard vendors (JAX, Charles River, Envigo), organize transfers between institutions, and handle quarantine program.
- 5. Animal Imaging:** Rodent micro-ultrasound (Vevo 2100), digital radiography, and micro-CT.

- 6. Study Support:** Protocol pre-review, study design consultation and troubleshooting, drug dosing, and species-specific training opportunities.

Equipment and Software

- **Vevo 2100**, VisualSonics
- **CODA Tail-Cuff Blood Pressure System**, Kent Scientific Inc.
- **IDEXX, RADIL**– Animal Health Monitoring, Pathology
- **ACAP**– bar-coded card printing and colony management system
- **ACIM**– billing, VetCare application system
- **Anprolene**– ethylene oxide sterilization
- **MouseOx**– SPO2 and EKG monitoring
- **Small Animal Imaging**– digital radiography, Xenogen IVIS (CRB), Xenogen Spectrum (RBL).
- **Imtek Micro CAT II**– x-ray computed tomography
- **Abaxis VetScanHm5**– blood analyzer (housed in Rm 269 CRB)

UTHSC Research Cores and Shared Resources

UTHSC Institutional Cores are dedicated to the success of your project. We serve the UTHSC research community by providing access to state-of-the-art equipment and to expert consultation services. <http://www.uthsc.edu/research/institutional-cores/index.php>

CORE INFORMATION

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