



- Newsletter from the Animal Facility at Biomedicine -

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1) Corona-preventive measures are still in place in the Animal Facility

To comply with the corona-preventive measures set forth by the AU senior management, access to the Animal Facility is only allowed if you have a negative corona virus test result no more than 72 hours old.

Also, it is still mandatory to use face mask in the Animal Facility.

To be able to work in the animal facility you must:

- Not exceed the maximum numbers of persons allowed in the laboratories and animal housing rooms at any time. You will find signs hanging on the doors indicating how many persons are allowed in each room at a time.
- Always clean and disinfect workstations and used equipment with 70% Ethanol.
- Remember to book workstations and equipment before use, and write clearly on the booking in Outlook how many persons you expect to be present as well as contact information (mail and phone number) on the responsible user. To secure physical distance during work in laboratories, booking of additional and adjacent workstations may be necessary.

If you need to work more people in a laboratory than the allowed number, you can only do so upon agreement with the Animal Facility Management.

Thus, we must still keep physical distance and maintaining high level of hygiene and cleaning when working in the animal housing rooms, procedure rooms and laboratories in the Animal Facility.

2) Expansion of the capacity in the Animal Facility

The capacity in the Animal Facility is still under pressure.

We are currently working on expanding the capacity, and we expect the new animal rooms will be available after summer (primo September 2021).

Until then, we need to be more restrictive in the number of projects that we can initiate and animals that we can allow for additional breeding and housing. We try to accommodate all requests, but for





new projects and breeding and housing of animals, we need to prioritize within present number of cages to allow space for new cages.

3) Increasing the capacity for housing of rats

To accommodate the increased requests for use of rats, we have decided to move the rat housing to a larger animal room.

Thus, rats are now housed in K46.

Mice that were previously housed in K46 are now moved to K45.

4) Different health status between rats and mice has implications on working procedures

Recent health monitoring screenings have demonstrated positive findings of the intestinal protozoa *Entamoeba muris* in test samples from the rat housing room.

E. muris is considered a non-pathogenic protozoal parasite found in the caecum of rodents, and the intestinal protozoa are transmitted via contact with infective cysts by the fecal-oral route.

Since *E. muris* is not detected in the mouse colony, working procedures securing segregation of rats and mice during work in laboratories, procedure rooms and housing facilities at all times must be secured.

Thus, the two LAF changing and working stations in the rat housing room K46 are strictly allocated to rats only, and must not be used for mice.

Also, if you have been working with rats you must not work with mice subsequently the same day.

To minimize the risk of transfer of *E. muris* between rats and mice (and animals in general), careful and diligent disinfection of laboratory working stations, equipment, utensils and trolleys is always very important.





5) Using the mobile isoflurane anesthesia unit

To secure proper function and working environment procedures while using the mobile isoflurane anesthesia unit, all users must receive introduction and training by the veterinarians or trained staff before use.

If you are in doubt, never hesitate to ask.

Unfortunately, we experience that not all users remember to refill the vaporizer after use, which is very annoying for the next user.

It is important that all users remember to refill the vaporizer with isoflurane after use.

Thus, this is a gentle reminder of the importance of following the rules regarding use of the anesthesia units.

Furthermore, all users must weigh the activated charcoal filter connected to the anesthetic equipment's scavenger system after use. This is to secure the working environment safety in the laboratory and to secure that the absorptive capacity of the charcoal filters is not exceeded.

6) Limitations in ordering of animals and technical assistance during Summer vacation period

Due to the Summer holiday and reduced number of technical staff available, please be aware that we have limitations in ordering of animals and technical assistance.

It will not be possible to order animals to arrive in week 28-29 and 31.

If you need animals during this period, they should arrive earlier.

For special request, please contact the management team.

Orders must be sent to animalorders@biomed.au.dk.

Also, please be aware that technical assistance may be limited during the summer period from week 27 to 33.





If you have special needs or requests, please contact your animal technician or the management team well in advance.

7) Planning and coordination of studies with the Animal Facility

Catching up on all studies that were not able to be performed during the corona lockdown will be very difficult.

However, the Animal Facility will assist and support starting up activities to the extent possible while complying with the existing corona preventive measures and restrictions.

To be able to accommodate and allocate space and resources for studies, it is very important that you make contact with the Animal Facility as early as possible in the planning process.

This will enable us to better allocate required resources for the specific study in close collaboration with you.

8) Animal Facility Management contact information

Head of the Animal Facility: Jakob Harslund, e-mail: jakob@biomed.au.dk

Team leader: Lone Dahl Thomsen, e-mail: lone.d.thomsen@biomed.au.dk

Vice team leader and LAS specialist, Peter Aakær Nielsen, e-mail: pan@biomed.au.dk

Facility Veterinarian: Astrid Gerd Holtet, e-mail: agh@biomed.au.dk

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Homepage for the Animal Facility at Department of Biomedicine:

<http://dyrefaciliteter.au.dk/institut-for-biomedicin/>

<http://dyrefaciliteter.au.dk/en/department-of-biomedicine/>

Best regards,

Jakob Harslund

This newsletter is sent to keep the users of the Animal Facility at the Department informed about organizational conditions and management of daily routines and guidelines.

The newsletter is distributed to all employees at Department of Biomedicine at University of Aarhus.

