



## - Newsletter from the Animal Facility at Biomedicine -

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## 1) Corona-restrictive measures have been phased out but preventive hygienic measures are still in place in the Animal Facility

We are very happy and fortunate that the COVID-19 situation in Denmark and AU is currently stable and under control.

Therefore, we are also very pleased that the extensive corona-restrictive measures and restrictions that were imposed on activities in the Animal Facility have now been phased out.

However, preventive hygienic measures are still very important for all work in the Animal Facility. Thus, it is very important that all users remember always to tidy up and ensure thorough cleaning and disinfection of working areas, surfaces and equipment.

Use of facial mask is not mandatory while being in the Animal Facility, but will still be available if you need it.

Use personal protective equipment whenever appropriate and stay home if you are sick.

## 2) The Animal Facility prices will increase 2% from 1 January 2022

In order to follow and adjust to the general price index changes in Denmark and globally, the Animal Facility prices increase 2% from 1 January 2022 on standard services and 4% on single use cages. The new price list will be available on the Animal Facility homepage and is as follows:

Burtype/Cage type	Pris per uge / Price per week	Pris per dag / Price per day
IVC Green Line GM500 (mice)	71,4 DKK	10,2 DKK
IVC Green Line GM500 Breeding cage (Mice)	81,9 DKK	11,7 DKK
IVC Green Line GM500 Diabetes (Mice)	139,3 DKK	19,9 DKK
IVC Green Line GM500 Immunodeficient (Mice)	146,3 DKK	20,9 DKK
IVC Green Line GR900 (Mice)	100,1 DKK	14,3 DKK
IVC Green Line GR900 Breeding cage (Mice)	110,6 DKK	15,8 DKK





IVC Green Line GR900 Diabetes (Mice)	128,8 DKK	18,4 DKK
IVC Green Line GR900 (Rat)	100,1 DKK	14,3 DKK
IVC Green Line GR1800 (Rat)	153,3 DKK	21,9 DKK
IVC Green Line GR1800 Breeding cage (Rat)	164,5 DKK	23,5 DKK
IVC Green Line GR1800 Diabetes (Rat)	192,5 DKK	27,5 DKK
<b>Andet/Other</b>		
Timepris/Hourly rate	280,5 DKK	-
Metabolismebur/Metabolic cage (Mice)	100,1 DKK	14,3 DKK
Metabolismebur/Metabolic cage (Rat)	100,1 DKK	14,3 DKK
Engangsbur/Disposable cage (mice)	73,5 DKK	10,4 DKK
Engangsbur/Disposable cage for "biosafety"	100,1 DKK	14,3 DKK
1182 Engangsbur/Disposable cage, full set	145,6 DKK	20,8 DKK
1182 Engangsbur/Disposable cage, bottom only	91,7 DKK	-
1182 Engangsbur/Disposable cage, lid only	31,3 DKK	-
1182 Engangsbur/Disposable cage, food tray and bottle	23,0 DKK	-

### 3) Booking of working stations and mobile anesthesia units

To make the most efficient and best possible way of booking and using laboratory working stations and procedure and behavior rooms, it is very important that resources are booked in the Outlook calendar and are only booked the time needed.

Booking of mobile anesthesia units will become available for booking in the Outlook calendar system soon. Information on this will follow.

Please notice that the mobile anesthesia units are dedicated for mice or rats, respectively.

To make booking and overview of available resources more efficient while being in the Animal Facility, we are working on making screens available for booking each resource. Information will follow.





#### 4) Different health status between rats and mice has implications on working procedures and use of mobile anesthesia units

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

*E. muris* is only detected in the rat colony, and not in the mouse colony.

Therefore, working procedures securing segregation of rats and mice during work in laboratories, procedure rooms and housing facilities have become even more important and must be secured at all times.

Mobile anesthesia units are clearly marked for mice or rats only, which must be respected.

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 before and after use.

#### 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. A new charcoal filter is available on the mobile anesthesia unit.

## 6) Nominations for the 3R Price 2022 for Increasing Animal Welfare in Research

The Animal Welfare Body at AU Health works to ensure that conducts and best practices for animal welfare are always implemented and shared across the various research disciplines at the Department of Biomedicine and the Department of Clinical Medicine.

The prize is instituted to create awareness on the importance of implementing the 3Rs in Excellence in Science.

The 3Rs stand for replacement, refinement and reduction.

Link: <https://phd.health.au.dk/aboutus/events/phdday2022/>

Nominations must be submitted **no later than 26th of November 2021**.

## 7) Invitation to Seminar – Animal Research 2021

To facilitate and support networking and sharing of good practices and ideas between users, students, scientists and staff working with animal research, the Animal Welfare Body at AU Health is hosting the Animal Research seminar 2021.

The seminar covers presentations on initiatives to improve study design, animal welfare and the 3Rs in animal models on renal ischemia and behavioral studies.





We will also discuss why so much effort is put into securing animal health status and biosafety and how we handle animal transport between AU facilities.

Link: <https://dyrefaciliteter.au.dk/dyrevelfaerdsudvalg-paa-health/invitation-to-seminar-animal-research-2021/>

## 8) Microbiome profiling of animal models

Tools to profile the gut microbiome (GM) is necessary in studies that use defined microbiota mice, and in studies of looking at phenotypes or drugs with a known microbiome interaction (e.g., immune checkpoint inhibitors in cancer research). Beyond these situations, profiling the GM is increasingly used to control background variability and increase reproducibility in animal studies. The use and role of the GM in animal studies is reviewed in Franklin and Ericsson, 2017 (PMID: 28328896).

If you are interested in pursuing this very interesting “add-on” to your ongoing studies, please don’t hesitate to contact me, and we will be able to initiate contact and collaboration with a local biotech company.

## 9) Animal Model Evaluation Program

To evaluate and identify the most valid animal model and with the scope of increasing scientific quality and the 3Rs, Scanbur offers, in collaboration with Charles River, to assess the quality and compatibility of an animal mode before making a purchase commitment. Thus, animals for pilot studies may be obtained free of charge, while crate and freight charges apply.

If you are interested, please don’t hesitate to contact the Animal Facility.





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## 10) Limitations in ordering of animals and technical assistance during Christmas and New Year 2021

Due to the Christmas holiday and reduced number of technical staff available, please be aware that it will not be possible to order animals to arrive in week 52 (December 27-31).

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

Orders for week 1 in 2022 must be send to [animalorders@biomed.au.dk](mailto:animalorders@biomed.au.dk) before Wednesday 22nd of December 2021 at noon.

Also, please be aware that technical assistance may be limited during the holiday period.

## 11) Animal Facility Management contact information

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

