

LABORATORY ANIMAL SERVICES ANIMAL MONITORING POLICY

Laboratory Animal Services staff check all research animals feed and water on a daily basis. Sheep are given fresh feed, water and rooms are cleaned daily. Rodents feed and water is checked daily and if low is topped up. Rodent cages are cleaned once per week. During rodent cage changing LAS staff give each animal a quick visual inspection. If any animals appear ill an orange card will be placed on rodent cages and follow the “Animal Health Reporting” SOP or in the case of sheep a note will be made in their daily sheep forms and reported to the Facility Coordinator and AWO.

Laboratory Animal Services do not monitor research animals daily.

The Chief Investigator is responsible for the daily monitoring of their animals

1. General Daily Monitoring

The daily monitoring of Investigators animal(s) begins the day the animal(s) arrive at the Medical School Animal House.

If under special circumstances the Chief Investigator or anyone in their research group can not come in on a particular day to monitor their animal, Laboratory Animal Services can assist, however Technical Assistance will be charged. Please fill in and send a Technical Assistance form by 2pm Friday for any Technical assistance required the following week. Any technical assistance forms sent after 2pm Friday can not guarantee LAS assistance.

2. Monitoring Post Surgery

Under no circumstances are anaesthetised animals to be left unattended until fully conscious. Animals should be housed individually to minimise injury from other animals within the cage and to allow safe recovery. A clinical records sheet must be used post surgery detailing any observations and post operative treatment given.

3. Monitoring Using Clinical Record Sheets

If clinical record sheets are to be used, they must be held in the animal housing room. Clinical record sheets must be maintained including the origin and fate of the animals. If you require LAS assistance to monitor and fill in your clinical record sheets, and you wish to add this to your ethics application, you must meet with the Facility Coordinator before the ethic’s application is presented to the ethic committee.

REFERENCES

- Australian code of practice for the care and use of animal s for scientific purposes 7th Edition 2004 section 2.2.26
- Animal User’s Handbook – Information about your responsibility to use animals humanely and ethically section 6.2