The NIH adopted the 8th Edition of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide)* effective January 1, 2012. The Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare requires that Assured institutions complete at least one semiannual program review and facility evaluation using the new *Guide* as the basis for evaluation by December 31, 2012.

The new *Guide* has doubled in length and contains a number of significant changes and additions. Some of the key changes include:

1. Minimum space recommendations for breeding rodents
2. A new section dedicated to aquatic animals
3. Increased emphasis on pair housing of social animals unless single housing is approved by the IACUC for scientific reasons.
4. Modifications to cage size requirements for nonhuman primates and rabbits.

These are just a few of the changes that the IACUC will be evaluating over the next few months. The new *Guide* continues to have an emphasis on performance standards which will allow institutions flexibility on how to interpret and apply the new recommendations. As we make changes related to the new *Guide* we will keep you updated via the website and additional newsletters.

### New Online Rodent Survival Surgery Course

The IACUC recently created a short, ~20 minutes, online course for rodent survival surgery. This course was designed to provide animal users with general information for performing rodent survival surgery. The topics covered are: aseptic technique, surgery area preparation, patient prep, surgeon prep, personal protective equipment, sterile instruments and re-use, anesthesia and analgesia, patient monitoring and post-op care, as well as record documentation. This is intended to be an introduction/refresher on aseptic survival surgery and the campus policy and not to replace the necessary hands on training provided in the laboratory.

The course is available on the campus Learning Management System at [lms.ucdavis.edu](http://lms.ucdavis.edu). In the search field type in “rodent” to find the course and then select the “UC Davis Rodent Survival Surgery Course”. The campus LMS works best using Internet Explorer as your internet browser.

We encourage everyone conducting rodent surgery to take this course.
Recent Policy Updates

In response to the release of the new *Guide* the IACUC will be reviewing and updating (as needed) all of campus policies relating to animal research. The following policies were recently updated, reviewed, and approved by the IACUC. The IACUC polices are available online at http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/IACUC/policies/Master

1) **Laboratory Housing of Research Animals** – There were no significant changes. Laboratory housing requires IACUC approval and will not be approved simply for convenience. The time the animals can be in the laboratory is limited to what was approved in the protocol.

2) **Animal Tracking System** – This policy was revised to change the reporting requirement from quarterly to semi-annually. Certain projects, such as those that require large breeding colonies, may want to continue to enter on a more frequent basis to ensure the approved number of animals is not exceeded.

3) **IACUC Laboratory/Study Area Inspection Program** – There were no significant changes. Please make sure that all day use areas are approved on your protocol.

4) **Expired Drugs and Medical Materials** – There were no significant changes. Expired anesthetics, antibiotics, and pain relieving drugs cannot be used beyond the expiration date.

5) **Xenopus Oocyte Harvesting via Laparotomy** – A minor change was made to reference the use of non-powdered gloves during surgery.

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**Campus Veterinary Services** is available 24/7 for emergencies.
New after-hours cell # is 530-219-3076
CVS Clinic M-F 8 am- 5 pm 530-752-0514

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**CVS - New Afterhours Contact Number**

Campus Veterinary Services (CVS) is changing from its current, somewhat outdated paging system to a cellular phone for contacting the on-call veterinary staff. The new number for reaching the on call veterinarian is **530-219-3076**. Effective immediately please use this number anytime you need to reach CVS during non-standard hours or if you have an emergency. CVS will continue to carry the pager for a short period of time during the transition to ensure notification of all that this change may impact.

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**World Week for Animals in Laboratories**

World Week for Animals in Laboratories is scheduled this year for April 21-29. While security is a MUST at all times, this week requires extra vigilance and thought about both work and personal safety and proactive readiness.

If you notice any suspicious actives notify the UC Davis Police Department immediately at 530-752-1230 or 911 in an emergency.

As a reminder UC Davis Police Department created two safety resources for researchers and staff, [Home Safety Tips for Research Personnel](http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/IACUC/quick-links-animal-care-and-use/Additional-sites-and-resources) and [Research Protections Strategies](http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/IACUC/quick-links-animal-care-and-use/Additional-sites-and-resources). These are available online at: