ANIMAL FACILITIES

The Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM) is responsible for the care of all vertebrate animals at UNC-CH and is committed to programs of excellence in veterinary care and laboratory animal management practices for all species used in UNC-CH research endeavors. A staff of more than 150 professional, technical, and administrative personnel provides quality animal care to a daily population of over 130,000 animals located in sixteen animal facilities on and off the UNC-CH campus. Federal funding and foundations sponsor over $300 million in essential animal research on the UNC-CH campus conducted by the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Public Health, Pharmacy, as well as the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, and Psychology.

The program of animal care at UNC-CH is overseen and evaluated semi-annually by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC), which is responsible for reviewing all animal care applications using vertebrate animals, ensuring compliance with federal animal welfare regulations, inspecting animal facilities and investigator laboratories, investigating animal concerns, and overseeing training and educational programs. The program has been accredited by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) since 1973 and meets the U. S. Department of Agriculture and Public Health Service standards and regulations. Veterinary care at UNC-CH is provided by eight faculty veterinarians board certified in laboratory animal medicine or veterinary pathology, three veterinary residents, eleven veterinary technicians, and two laboratory technicians. As laboratory animal specialists, they provide a comprehensive program of veterinary care, offer technical advice and assistance, and provide needed laboratory and pathology services for diagnostic and research purposes. More than 115 laboratory animal technicians provide daily animal care and husbandry, ensuring a humane, enriching environment for the animals under their charge that is free from variables that could compromise a research project.

For more information, visit https://research.unc.edu/comparative-medicine/

Last Updated: October 3, 2018