

## **ANIMAL FACILITIES**

UNC-CH's research animal models are used by faculty in the Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, Public Health, and Pharmacy, the College of Arts and Sciences in the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Psychology, and in the Institute of Marine Sciences (IMS-located in Morehead City, NC) and are housed in 13 on-campus facilities and 3 off-site facilities. McGavran-Greenberg Hall is a 124,000-gross square-foot building that was completed and occupied by the School of Public Health in 1990. Faculty at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health have direct access to a specific pathogen free 8,862 square foot animal facility. The facility consists of 6 animal rooms off a single corridor and has a BSL2 suite with 7 isolation cubicles and a NuAire ducted Class 2 biosafety cabinet. There is a large bulk autoclave for the biosafety level (BSL)-2 area with dirty to clean passage of equipment out of the suite. There are several project rooms available for investigators' use. Renovations to increase the size of the cage wash facility and to add additional animal procedure rooms are projected to be finished at the end of 2019. Rodent cage census is currently ~99% housed in individually ventilated caging (IVC). Rodent allergen concentrations are decreased with sealed IVC under negative pressure. IVC rodent cage changing is 1-2 times per week, thus limiting personnel exposure frequency by increasing the cage-change interval. Edstrom carbon filtered; reverse osmosis water treatment units provide purified water to all laboratories. Most animals receive hyper-chlorinated water ad lib from polycarbonate bottles with stainless steel sipper tubes or an automatic watering system of PVC or stainless-steel pipe with stainless steel drinking valves. Photoperiod and lighting control are via a building management system.

The Division of Comparative Medicine (DCM) is responsible for the care of all vertebrate animals on the UNC-CH campus. DCM 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 180 professional, technical and administrative personnel providing quality animal care to a daily population throughout the UNC-CH campus. Federal funding and foundations sponsor approximately \$1.14 billion in essential research on the UNC-CH campus.

The Division's program is reviewed semi-annually by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and has been accredited by AAALAC since 1973. DCM and the University also meet U. S. Department of Agriculture and Public Health Service standards and regulations. A major responsibility of the division's veterinarians, veterinary technicians and laboratory technicians is the health care and humane use of all animals. 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. Their goal is to provide a humane, enriching environment for the animals under their charge, free from any variables that could compromise a research project.

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

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