



EMORY
UNIVERSITY

Division of Animal Resources

Emory Integrated Core Facilities

DAR 2020-01: COVID-19 Animal Preservation Measure 1

Date: March 23, 2020

From: Michael J. Huerkamp, DVM, DAACLAM
Director, Division of Animal Resources

In an effort to meet the varied needs of our stakeholders, we provide three different versions of our message. The first is a very brief, < 25-word summary. The second is a slightly more in-depth 100-word summary. The third is detailed. We hope this approach will help you find the level of info you require.

<25 WORDS

If you will have animals on census during the research slowdown, please pick up “SAVE” stickers at WBRB G02 Monday and Tuesday 8a-5p.

~100 WORDS

In an abundance of caution, your DAR is preparing for the possibility of COVID-19 exerting a negative influence on supplies or staffing. Please identify cages to save at all costs by placing a “SAVE” sticker on cage cards. This will enable DAR to prioritize preserving these animals in the event that food or other vital supplies cannot be maintained. As communicated previously, DAR will not unilaterally or indiscriminately euthanize or downsize the census and any deliberate depopulation would only be done with the knowledge and consent of university leadership and in response to an extreme, irreversible situation. At the current time, your DAR is prepared care for the full census, has the staffing and inventories, and have been tested in short staffing scenarios of severe weather and winter break.

~500 WORDS

The identification of animals to save at all costs is being done in an abundance of caution. As stated above, the DAR is currently prepared to care for the full census. Our hope is that will continue and our duty is to plan for the possibility that it cannot. Each lab has been dispensed a number of stickers that is 25% of the average daily census in February. It is possible that DAR staffing will suffer, due to illness or quarantine. If this happens, our first step will be to reduce cage change frequency and spot change cages as necessary. This will enable us to care for more animals with fewer people and is an exemption that has been approved by the IACUC.

Another possibility is the cessation of interstate commerce or statewide shelter-in-place orders may result in supply depletion. For example, the animal food is milled in Indiana, DAR has 3-4 weeks warehoused and our local vendor has 2 weeks supply. If supply halted, we could exhaust food within 3-

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5 weeks and so would need to take action beforehand. In the case of animal food running short potentially weeks from now, the intent is to euthanize nonessential animals to conserve food and preserve those that are most valuable. The decision to take this course would only be made by university leadership and not unilaterally by DAR. Each lab has been dispensed a number of stickers equivalent to 25% of the average daily census in February. These stickers are ready for PIs to retrieve at the front desk of WBRB G02E. Please retrieve them between the hours of 8-5:00 Monday and Tuesday. Please be patient if there are many labs attempting to obtain stickers at the same time.

The DAR and the Mouse Transgenic and Gene Targeting Core are prioritizing the cryopreservation of mouse lines and suggest this as a mechanism to preserve genotypes. Make arrangements by contacting Dr. Karolina Piotrowska-Nitsche: MouseCore@emory.edu.

Please direct any questions to Dr. Michael Huerkamp: 7-3248; mhuerka@emory.edu.