

Animal Facilities

The Animal Resource Center (ARC) is the primary animal care unit at UCSB, complies with all federal, state, and local regulations and guidelines for laboratory animal care, and is fully accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International. The combined square footage of the two ARC animal facilities is approximately 12,000 ft² within secure perimeters. Both are conventional single corridor animal facilities with adequately wide hallways and sanitizable construction, designed and built in the early 1960s, and housing primarily rodent species (i.e. rats and mice). In addition to the animal husbandry facilities (animal holding and cage washing areas), the ARC contains a dedicated animal surgical suites for rabbits or rodents, which are equipped with a ceiling mounted surgical light, downdraft tables or stainless steel surgical table, a boom-mounted surgical microscope, gas anesthesia machines, and anesthetic monitoring equipment (e.g. pulse oximeter). The ARC facilities also contain a small diagnostic laboratory, a necropsy room, and a small pharmacy, all of which are available to the Principal Investigator (PI).

Veterinary Care

The veterinary care program at UCSB is overseen by a full-time Attending Veterinarian, meets all federal, state, and local regulations and guidelines for laboratory animal care, and is fully accredited by the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International. Trained animal technicians or research staff of monitor the health of the animal colony daily 7 days a week. A veterinarian is available (on-call) after-hours, weekends, and Holidays for emergency care. The contact information for the veterinarian is posted in the vivarium. Any animal showing symptoms of disease, pain, or distress, either spontaneously or after an experimental procedure, is reported to and examined by a veterinarian. The veterinarian notes initial observations, health evaluations, diagnosis, and recommends a treatment or resolution plan. The PI or a member of the research team is notified (by phone or email) to ensure that the proposed treatment plan does not interfere with the experimental treatments/manipulations, and must respond to the veterinarian's treatment request within 24 hours to ensure timely resolution of clinical problems. In most cases treatment is initiated right away. In cases of emergency, or when there is severe pain, distress, or an illness not addressed specifically in the approved protocol, then the PI understands and agrees to allow the veterinarian or designee to provide emergency veterinary care (or euthanasia) without their explicit consent. This agreement is affirmed by the PI as one of the conditions of their animal protocol approval.