

## **Policy of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Animal Facility Maintenance, Remodeling, Planning and Construction**

**October 21, 2008**

Policy approved by the Research Policy Advisory Committee (RPAC)  
RPAC recommendation accepted by the Vice Chancellor for Research.

WHEREAS: Historically, facilities to house research, teaching, and outreach animals on the UW-Madison campus were developed in association with departments, and so they were dispersed. Although convenient to the scientist, the dispersal model presents significant costs, redundancies, and in the present federal, state, and accreditation climate, many regulatory and practical drawbacks. Currently, the campus is in the process of consolidating and building new facilities, which include vivaria. It seems not only prudent but also timely to reconsider the campus outlook and process for the remodeling and building of animal facilities and to coordinate this effort. This policy document summarizes criteria that we endorse as a campus as we maintain, remodel, or build animal facilities.

WHEREAS: There exist numerous regulatory agencies, requirements for, and other individuals with an interest in appropriate animal housing, which include:

1. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA): Animal Welfare Act and Policies.
2. Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW): Involves all PHS funding.
3. Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care Facilities (AAALAC), International: Provides the “good housekeeping seal of approval”.
4. Scientists: Whose goal is to generate accurate data in facilities that meet the regulatory requirements
5. The Public: Who expect effective stewardship of all animals under the university’s care.

The University endorses consideration of the following criteria during animal facility planning:

1. Security--for animals and people (location within facility; entry/exit and loading dock/elevator design; backup generator).
2. Efficiency (full use of expensive equipment; cost effective HVAC; backup staffing).
3. Specific design requirements (species-appropriate; adequate procedure room space; efficient movement of people, animals, and equipment; space flexibility; ease of maintenance; adequate ancillary space, including entry/changing areas for protective garments, storage space, quarantine space, break/training room).
4. Management (professional manager; appropriate disease management plan; cost-effective materials purchase/delivery).
5. Location (reasonable distance from users; reasonable inter-facility distance for

veterinary staff and inspectors; ease of access by delivery vehicles).

6. Business plan (identify adequate start-up and equipment purchase budget; develop a projection of operating costs and an adequate facility maintenance budget; establish appropriate per diem charges).

WHEREAS: At the present time the Research Animal Resources Center (RARC) is addressing the critical campus need for a central source of information on condition/maintenance/remodel status, and capacity/inventory by room, of all UW-Madison animal facilities. Therefore, RARC is in the pivotal position to approve for the university all remodeling and new construction of animal facilities, and garnering input from knowledgeable individuals from campus, as consistent with the endorsed criteria above.

The university endorses the following criteria to accomplish appropriate oversight and facilitate positive outcomes with the maintenance, remodeling and new construction of all animal facilities.

1. RARC will develop a mechanism to establish close working relationships with the appropriate school/college and Facilities Planning and Management (FPM) to address animal facility construction and maintenance issues. [In cases where a federal agency (or any extramural agency) is funding maintenance, remodeling, and/or new construction of animal facilities, the agency must work with FPM, the appropriate school/college, and RARC to ensure that institutional requirements are met.]
2. The Director of RARC or his/her designee, in consultation with the Institutional Official (IO), will be appointed as a consultant member of the Campus Planning Committee and the Space and Remodeling Policies Committee to represent Animal Program interests.
3. The RARC Director or designee shall have sign-off authority with the appropriate school/college dean's office for the animal facility portion of the building project to ensure that animal regulatory standards are met.

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Policy history:

This policy was developed with input from laboratory animal veterinarians and members of each UW-Madison Animal Care and Use Committee. It was approved in draft form by the All Campus Animal Care and Use Committee. The Policy was presented before the Campus Planning Commission on 3-22-07, presented to the BioDeans, discussed in draft form by the Research Policy Advisory Committee (RPAC) on 10-18-07 and revised and approved by RPAC.