

June 1, 2009

## **Notification Protocol for Abnormal Behavior in Research or Teaching Animals**

When the Animal Care staff notes an animal being abnormal (i.e. either behaviorally or medically), below is the recommended notification process by the Office of the Campus Veterinarian. Animal Facilities can customize this protocol to meet their unique management requirements.

- 1) Call the Principle Investigator and/or the research staff who owns/utilizes this animal. Many times the abnormal appearance/behavior has to do with a treatment or procedure done to the animal as part of the research/teaching protocol **AND THEY NEED TO BE INFORMED**. You should let them know you are also going to notify the veterinary staff. The research and veterinary staff will consult about the best treatment protocol to proceed with.
- 2) Call the Office of the Campus Veterinarian on the MAIN LINE (335-6246). If you get voice mail, leave a detailed message. If it is an emergency, call the OCV emergency cell phone **(509) 330-1871**. Email notification is acceptable in NON-EMERGENCY cases.
- 3) Flag the cage/pen of the animal with a **GREEN VET CHECK CARD**. If you don't have these cards, contact the OCV for a supply. Fill out the card as completely as possible. If the animal is housed in a group, you may want to separate the animal into an individual cage to reduce stress on the animal as well as making it easier for the research and veterinary staff to identify the animal in need of evaluation.
- 4) If you don't get a response from the research and veterinary staff in a timely fashion, please call back!

### *NOTES:*

- *If the research staff requests the animal be culled, notify the OCV to let them know they do not have to examine the animal. OCV may discuss the case with the research staff to decide if the carcass should be submitted for necropsy.*
- *Please do not just flag a cage and ASSUME the research and/or veterinary staff will see it when they are doing rounds. When veterinary rounds are conducted, many times we do not go in every single room every time (due to disease concerns) and we don't look at every individual cage. The animal could sit for days/weeks prior to being noticed.*
- *It is recommended that animal facilities have an "abnormal animal log" sheet/book where staff notes when/where an abnormal animal is observed and documents the notification process. This way the remaining members of the staff will be kept abreast of animal issues and will know the responsible parties were notified. This log should be kept in a central location where all staff and OCV personnel can view it on visits.*