

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

**Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
(IACUC)**

**Department of Biology and Chemistry (BC)
Morehead State University**

EMERGENCY FACILITY DISASTER PLAN

The BC Animal Care Facility is housed in LA 142. This facility is utilized to keep mice, rats, fishes, amphibians, and reptiles. BC recognizes that a number of emergencies could befall the Animal Care Facility. These include, but are not limited to, weather-related events (flooding, tornadoes, winter storms, and severe thunderstorms), earthquakes, power failures, fires, and civil disturbances. Such occurrences could place the lives and welfare of the animals in jeopardy. In the event that such a disaster did occur, BC is prepared to do the following:

- 1) While it is the intent of this plan to protect the animals from adverse conditions, under no circumstances should personnel place themselves in personal danger at any time. Personnel safety is the primary concern in any emergency.
- 2) Individual Animal Colony Rooms of the Animal Care Facility are labeled with appropriate contact persons (in order of contact: Principal Investigator; Attending Veterinarian; Chair of BC; IACUC/ Physical Plant Liaison) and their phone numbers in case of an emergency.
- 3) To reduce the risk of civil disturbances disrupting the facility, the BC Animal Care Facility is kept locked at all times, and access is limited to authorized personnel only.
- 4) In case of power failure, the temperature of the Animal Colony Rooms will be maintained by portable devices, if possible, or the animals will be transferred to one of two other facilities on campus (the Department of Psychology's Animal Care Facility or the Derrickson Agricultural Center's Animal Care Facility).
- 5) In case of fire, flood, earthquake or other disaster, surviving animals will be transferred to one of the other campus facilities.
- 6) Weather-related events can lead to direct damage of the Animal Care Facility or prevent access to it. In the case of the former, animals will be transferred to one of the other campus facilities; in the case of the latter, individuals who live close to the facility will be asked to check on the facility and provide appropriate care for the animals, if possible.
- 7) If animals have been injured as a result of a disaster, the Principal Investigator and/or the Attending Veterinarian will be consulted to consider an appropriate course of action and will have the authority to euthanize animals.
- 8) All animal care personnel, including students, will be informed of the individuals to notify and temporary steps to take in the event of an emergency.

**Department of Psychology
Morehead State University**

EMERGENCY FACILITY DISASTER PLAN

In the event of an emergency or disaster that threatens the well-being of rats housed in Reed Hall, Room 412E, the project director and/or the attending veterinarian will be notified first to determine the necessary actions to be taken. In the event that these individuals are unavailable, other individuals trained in the care and use of rats will be contacted (e.g., other psychology and biology faculty). These latter individuals will be authorized to take appropriate actions, including euthanasia, if the project director and attending veterinarian are unavailable. The names and phone numbers of all potential contact persons including the laboratory director, project director, attending veterinarian, IACUC/physical plant liaison, and other qualified faculty will be posted in the laboratory.

When possible, temporary measures will be taken to maintain the appropriate temperature, humidity, ventilation, and lighting until normal operations are restored. In the event that such measures are impossible or impractical, then arrangements will be made to transport the rats to another campus facility such as the Biological Sciences Lab Animal Facility or the Veterinary Technology Laboratory Facility. In the event that these facilities are unavailable and temporary measures cannot be taken to maintain an adequate environment, then the rats will be euthanized according to approved protocol procedures. Under no circumstances will animals be allowed to survive in conditions likely to produce severe or prolonged distress or pain.

All animal care personnel including students will be informed of the individuals to notify and temporary steps to take in the event of an emergency.

**Veterinary Technology Program
Morehead State University**

EMERGENCY FACILITY DISASTER PLAN

PURPOSE: The purpose of this document is to provide a general plan of action for responding to emergencies that may impact the animals housed by the program as required by the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*.

RESPONSIBLE PERSONS: The attending veterinarian will be responsible for oversight and review of this plan and for notifying the IACUC and relevant regulatory agencies in the event an emergency occurs.

Study directors, principal investigators, course instructors, and the Farm Manager of the Derrickson Agricultural Complex will be responsible for implementing this plan with regard to their projects and courses, training personnel under their supervision, and notifying the attending veterinarian in the event an emergency occurs.

All personnel associated with the care and use of animals in the program will be responsible for implementing this plan as assigned.

COMMUNICATION: All responsible personnel will receive a copy of this plan and training to assure understanding of the procedures to be employed in the event of an emergency. All relevant telephone numbers will be posted next to each phone in the facility.

EMERGENCY: An emergency is any adverse event such as a fire, tornado, earthquake, hurricane, chemical spill, civil disturbance, electrical or water outage, or equipment failure which causes or has the potential to cause injury to the animals.

PREVENTION: Appropriate steps will be taken to prevent the occurrence of emergency situations when possible. These will include:

- maintaining building security and allowing access to authorized individuals only
- minimizing fire hazards by maintaining compliance with fire codes
- minimizing chemical hazards through proper storage and handling of toxic chemicals

RESPONSE PLAN:

- 1) While it is the intent of this plan to protect the animals from adverse conditions, under no circumstances should personnel place themselves in personal danger at any time. Personnel safety is the primary concern in any emergency.
- 2) In case of fire or toxic chemical spill, activate the fire alarm to evacuate the building and summon help. Call 911 to report personnel injuries or major facility damage. Do not attempt to extinguish a fire or clean up a chemical spill unless you have received proper training in these procedures.
- 3) Contact program personnel to notify them of the situation and initiate their response.
- 4) Follow the directives given by emergency and program personnel.
- 5) Special situations:
 - Emergency during a surgical procedure - Personnel safety should be assured first. Adequate emergency lighting and power backup must be available to allow completion of the procedure. If the procedure cannot be completed in a manner that assures patient recovery, the animal should be humanely euthanized.
 - In the event that evacuation of the animals from the facility is necessary, this will be done only to the extent that it does not endanger personnel and a suitable alternate location is available.
 - In the event that animals are injured, they will receive medical care under the direction of the attending veterinarian and/or trained personnel. If the emergency precludes adequate medical care of seriously injured animals, they should be humanely euthanized.