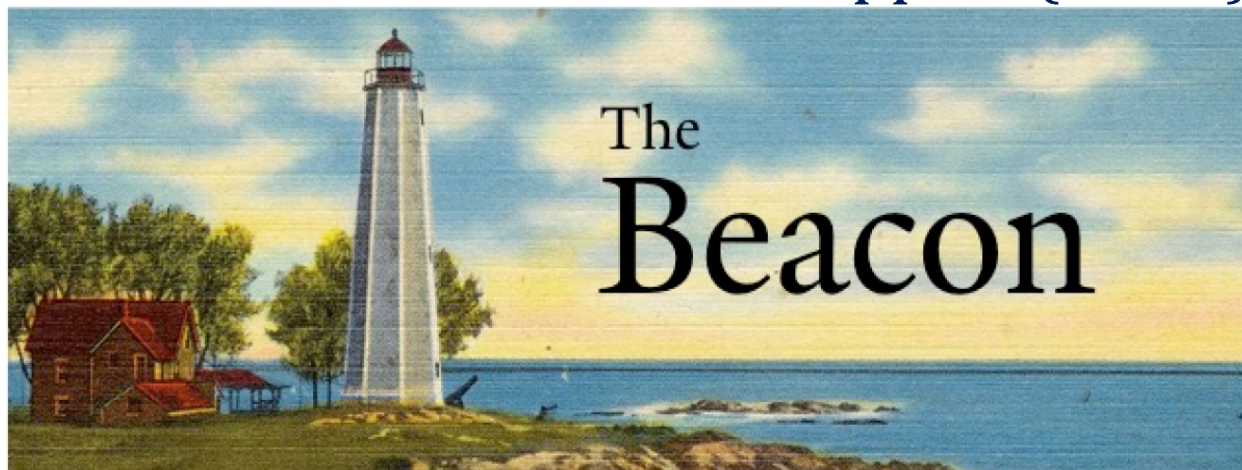


Office of Animal Research Support (OARS)

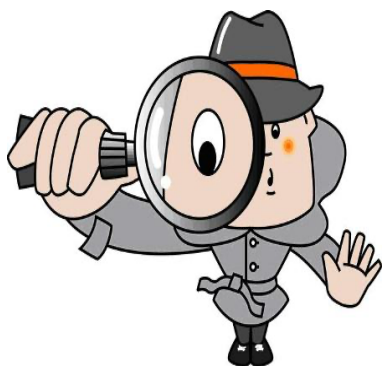


Announcements & Reminders

2026/2027 IACUC [Deadlines and Meeting Dates](#)

[Research Liaison Departmental Assignments](#)

Investigators are encouraged to submit protocols that are due for 3-year renewal early to allow time for pre-review by the research liaisons and veterinarians. Early submission helps expedite protocol review and approval. Should you have any questions, please contact [OARS](#).



Upcoming Facility Inspections

April: 100 COLLEGE, AMISB, BCMM, CMHC, GSF, LCI, LEPH, SEAMCO, YPI, VEHICLES, WC

Please contact [Shannon Denison](#) if you need further information. Please check your spaces regularly to meet IACUC expectations.

IMPORTANT: Cabinets, drawers, or containers with drugs or materials with expiration dates must be accessible for inspection. If you cannot leave these unlocked (e.g., controlled substances), you must be ready to open them. Contact [Shannon Denison](#) to provide your contact information and the relevant areas.

****Reminder: Euthanasia Cages**

There has been an increase in overcrowded cages left on YARC euthanasia racks without sufficient food and/or water. When placing a cage on a euthanasia rack, please ensure the following:

1. Water bottle/bag is at least two-thirds full
2. Sufficient food is provided for the number of animals in the cage (3-4 pellets per mouse, 6-8 pellets per rat)
3. Greater than two-thirds of the bedding is dry
4. Cage density requirements as detailed in rodent housing policies are followed

More information can be found in the following policies:

- 4483.2 [Housing Policy](#)
- 4420 [Housing Policy: Mouse](#)
- 4421 [Housing Policy: Rat](#)

If you have any questions, please contact IACUC@yale.edu.

****Reminder: Colony Management**

- As previously communicated, please be cognizant of YARC practices concerning non-compliant breeding cages. If weanlings are still present in the cage on the indicated “wean by” date, YARC will separate them. All non-compliant cages (e.g., double litter, harems with litter) will be separated by YARC upon identification. YARC will also intervene on a fee for service basis when:
 - Mouse litter is ≥ 29 days old
 - Rat litter is ≥ 22 days old
 - Cage exceeds density limits without proper documentation
 - Double litters or harems with litters are found

To assist with colony management, a software program from [Transnetyx](#) called Colony is available, free of charge, to any researchers who pay rodent services to manage their colonies. Utilizing streamlined communication and convenient task management, this software allows you to keep track of your breeding cages using the Colony website or the Colony iOS app, thus facilitating efficient colony management. Further, if you use Transnetyx for genotyping, results will be automatically applied to animal data as soon as they are available.

The Transnetyx team will help you every step of the way in getting you set up and started in Colony. Contact Yale's representative, Kristin Uyl at kuyl@transnetyx.com, for assistance in getting started.

Effective management involves careful planning, recordkeeping, and adherence to best practices and regulations. This not only benefits the animals but supports the goals of research, conservation, and ethical responsibility.

****Reminder: Help Shape the Future of Compassion Fatigue Support**

The CREW (Compassion, Resilience, Empathy, and Wellness) team is seeking your feedback on our current Compassion Fatigue Program. Your input is vital in helping us understand the community's needs and guiding future program development. Please take a few moments to complete this brief, anonymous survey and share your thoughts and suggestions.

[To access the survey, click here.](#)

OLAW Recent Update

The NIH has rescinded NOT-OD-05-034, and updated guidance has been issued in NOT-OD-25-148 regarding the 2022 NIH Policy on Data Management and Sharing. This policy now requires all NIH-funded research that generates scientific data to include a Data Management and Sharing Plan as part of the application process. The new guidelines focus on increasing transparency, improving reproducibility, and ensuring data accessibility across the research community.

Key updates include:

- A mandatory Data Management and Sharing Plan for all relevant applications, effective from January 25, 2023
- Clarified expectations around data sharing, privacy protections, and budgeting for data management costs
- New implementation guidelines for compliance, including detailed resources and FAQs
- Inclusion of NSF award numbers and funding sources in reports to the OLAW, as part of broader compliance requirements

For more information, please review the full policy updates in the [NOT-OD-25-148 notice](#).

Reporting Animal Care and Use Concerns

Yale University ensures that no individual will be discriminated against or be subject to any reprisal for raising a concern or reporting violations of any regulation or standard pertaining to the care or use of animals under our Animal Program.

A concern or report can be made anonymously*. Whether or not made anonymously, all reviews and investigations will be conducted confidentially to the extent possible.

[Reporting Animal Care and Use Concerns Policy](#). Anonymous reports can be made through the [University Hotline](#)

MS-222

The guidelines for the use of MS-222 in zebrafish euthanasia have been updated in the [Euthanasia Policy, Guidelines and Procedures](#) to align with the current AVMA Guidelines. Specifically, the required exposure time has been increased to a minimum of 30 minutes following the cessation of gill movement. This change is also reflected in the “Euthanasia Methods” section of all protocols that have selected MS-222 as a euthanasia method.

CO₂ Euthanasia

AVMA classifies CO₂ euthanasia as acceptable with conditions, meaning it can be humane when very specific procedural standards are met. Below are the detailed requirements.

Gradual Fill—not Pre-Filled Chambers

- Animals must not be placed into a chamber pre-filled with CO₂ because:
 - High-concentration CO₂ causes pain due to carbonic acid formation on mucous membranes
 - It results in distress, anxiety, and aversive reactions

Laboratory Staff Reporting Animal Health Concerns to VCS

Laboratories should report all animal health concerns **directly** to Veterinary Clinical Services (VCS) (203) 785-2501 to ensure appropriate and immediate intervention. VCS

service is available 24 hours a day and is the required point of contact for any issues related to animal health. Reporting concerns to other individuals (for example, emailing a YARC staff who may be working in the field and unable to access email promptly) may result in delays and does not meet this reporting requirement.

Questions or concerns related to animal husbandry, housing, or daily husbandry care must be directed to the YARC husbandry management team of the animal facility or the YARC business office at 203-785-2526.

Thank you for your cooperation in adhering to established reporting procedures, which are essential for ensuring compliance and maintaining the highest standards of animal care.

Policy and Standard Procedure Updates – November-January

Xenopus Oocyte Harvest

- The document was reviewed and minor changes were made for clarification.
- *Xenopus* oocyte harvest is performed when the milking of frogs is not possible and carries the potential to damage oocytes. Therefore, surgery is necessary for the removal and collection of the oocytes.
- The frog will be anesthetized.
- A diagonal skin incision is made in a lower quadrant of the abdomen. Sides will be alternated to allow maximum healing time. An incision is made through the muscle layer to expose the ovary.
- A mass of oocytes is excised, and the remainder will be carefully placed back into the coelomic cavity. The muscle and skin incisions will be closed.
- Animals should be checked daily for at least 3 days for any signs of wound dehiscence and inflammation.

High-Density Mouse Housing for Microbiome Studies

- The document was reviewed and minor changes were made for clarification.
- It has been suggested that co-housing more than one litter and dams in a primary enclosure may offer some degree of gut microbiome standardization among offspring, and provide a larger number of animals from which to establish experimental and control groups with similar GM.

- To include this standard procedure in an IACUC protocol, the investigation must include the study of the mouse microbiome or that the mouse microbiome is an established mediator of the endpoints being measured.
- IACUC protocol must include a brief description of this housing paradigm as a Special Instruction in the Non-Standard Care section of the protocol form.
- After IACUC approval, a harem breeding cage is set up with one male and multiple female mice. Once 2 female mice have been confirmed to be pregnant, all additional mice (male and any other females) will be removed immediately. The 1st litter and dam will be removed if the 2nd litter is born more than 3 days apart.
- High-density enclosures will be regularly monitored for waste accumulation, high humidity, and unexpected clinical conditions. Enclosures may need to be changed more frequently than usual, which may result in more stress on the animals.

As always, please contact [OARS](#) with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

~The OARS Team