

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE

VETERINARIAN NOTIFICATION OF ANIMAL HEALTH ISSUES SOP

Purpose: Outline of procedures for notifying the ACF Manager and Attending Veterinarian in cases of animal health issues, accidental death, and unexpected death so that they can assess the situation and create a treatment or action plan.

It is of paramount importance that you contact the ACF Manager, acf@uta.edu or 510-717-8223, IMMEDIATELY if any of the following are observed:

All species

- Injuries
- Missing Animal
- Escaped Animal (if it touches the floor, whether recaptured or not)
- Accidental Death
- Any death that is not an intended outcome of protocol procedures
- Any other potential symptoms of illness, injury, pain, or distress
- Environmental facility issues that may harm or impact animal welfare

Rodents

- Weight Loss – more than 20%
- Hair Loss – bald spots, barbering
- Not eating – weight loss, no feces
- Diarrhea
- Rough coat
- Dehydration (as evidenced by skin pinch test)
- Lesion – bites, scratches
- Tumor – ulcerated or not related to protocol procedures
- Eye problem – redness, irritation, discharge, cloudy
- Porphyrin staining around eyes, nose, mouth
- Limb Problem – lame, favoring, loss of mobility
- Breathing Problem – labored, rapid
- Wound – open, bleeding

Fish

- Scoliosis (curved spine)
- Undersize, emaciated
- Bloated (possibly eggbound)
- Dermal lesions, erosion (scales or fins)
- Shortened operculum
- Irregular swimming behavior (flashing, erratic, top of tank, bottom of tank, etc.)

Lizards

- Not eating
- Weight loss
- Emaciated

Cats:

- Behavioral Changes:
 - Increased Hiding
 - Constant Tail Chasing – add more enrichment
 - Trouble Sleeping/Lethargic
 - Lack or excess grooming
 - Increased/Decreased drinking/Dehydration
 - Loss of appetite or weight loss (>10%)
 - Litter box issues: inability or straining to urinate, constipation, diarrhea, excessive saturation, foul-smelling
- Physical Changes:
 - Vomiting (Not Hairball Related)
 - Foul-odor breath
 - Skin Lesions – Cuts, stings, punctures, bites, scratches, etc
 - Coughing
 - Open-mouth breathing
 - Mucous membrane discharge & squinting
 - Mobility issues: lameness, stiffness, inability to walk or jump
 - Seizures
- Reproduction Changes:
 - Dystocia
 - Blood in Cage/ On the fur
 - Unusual genital discharge

As the Attending Veterinarian's designee, the ACF Manager will assess the situation and either consult with or report to the Attending Veterinarian. The Attending Veterinarian will oversee any treatment or action plan, which will be communicated to the Principal Investigator.