March 28, 2017

Continuing growth in the research enterprise at Emory University has resulted in very high usage of Division of Animal Resources (DAR)-managed animal research facilities. This is particularly true for rooms that are shared by multiple investigators. For example, all 52 procedure rooms across the institution are assigned for specific activities or are being heavily used by multiple investigators. Of the 223 other rooms available for housing or other purposes in the facilities, only 6 are vacant. Consequently, the use of common rooms needs to be scheduled in advance to ensure that everyone’s experiments move forward smoothly. These issues are particularly acute in HSRB and Pediatrics.

To maximize the effective use of our space with our expanding research needs, we need to redouble our efforts to work together and communicate effectively. The DAR is committed to working with investigators to meet their research needs, which may include expanding the census for species already housed and helping coordinate the effective use of common rooms. In addition, future opportunities for growth in the research enterprise, such as adding new species, taking on new activities, accommodating new research equipment and devices in the facilities, and ongoing faculty recruiting now requires careful planning and coordination. Please be sure to reach out to the DAR leadership so that we can make resources available to meet your needs. Finally, the DAR is willing to work collaboratively with departments to develop procedure space, for rodent surgery or other animal-related activities, outside of the animal facility envelope.

Please contact me with any questions.

This notification has been sent to all investigators supported by DAR.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Huerkamp, DVM, DACLAM
Director, DAR