



EMORY
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE

Division of Animal Resources

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To: Emory University Faculty Using Experimental Animals (+ Dr. David Wynes)
Re: Animal Charge Rates, FY2011-2012
Date: August 31, 2011

Attached are the rates for animal *per diem* and special service charges for the fiscal year 2011-2012 that will take effect September 1, 2011.¹ The DAR completed the annual comprehensive fiscal analysis of *per diem* and service charges for the past year and presented the data to the faculty Animal Resources Advisory Committee (ARAC). This analysis was the basis for the adjustment of the rates approved on August 15, 2011. In general, *per diem* rates are calculated to cover only projected normal operating costs and with the preceding fiscal year data used as the basis for the annual adjustments.

Unlike past years where some rates went up and more or less equivalent numbers declined, with rare exception there were across-the-board up to 15% increases in the rates. This most assuredly is a disconcerting development and beginning with me. While the DAR has made arrangements in the coming year to concentrate on evaluating its business practices and efficiency, higher operating costs were influenced by many factors, some of them out of immediate DAR hands. These included worsening mouse fur mite outbreaks, a snow emergency (January 9-14), and diversion of chemically-contaminated bedding to incineration. In other cases there are formerly separate charges (e.g. biowaste) that have been eliminated and included in the *per diem* rates, more and more resources developed to facilitate research activities and reduce laboratory expenses (e.g. core rodent surgical and procedure rooms), increasing demands for DAR managerial oversight and research support as facilities approach capacity, and ever greater requests for sophisticated care of rodents with complex health conditions. All of these have exerted upward pressure on the *per diems*. Along these lines and related to operating costs is an increasing incidence of protocol noncompliance resulting in ever increasing veterinary attention and encumbering associated costs. A laboratory focus on protocol adherence is one area where those concerned about rising DAR costs can make an immediate and positive impact. Another area where the effect would be profound is that of Smart Keys. DAR administrative personnel expend inordinate amounts of time in attempts to obtain accurate Smart Keys from the faculty and research administrators and most of this is in futile effort.

In one case, there will be relief on the way. In October and in January we will put a total of 26 mouse ventilated racks with auto-water into use this will enable mouse care savings of 25% (~\$158K) at FY11-12 rates and even 17% (~\$100K) as compared to FY10-11 rates for those availing this option over water bottles.

It continues to bear disclosing that the rates do not include provisions to collect funds into a pool to pay indemnities in the case of DAR error, natural disaster, technological malfunction, unforeseen/unpayable expenses, or other events or conditions that may confound or ruin experiments or result in the loss of animal life.

Should you have questions, comments or suggestions about these matters, please contact me.

Footnotes

¹A comprehensive listing of rates can also be found at: http://www.dar.emory.edu/BUSINESS/fees/fee_schedule.pdf.

Check out the DAR Web Page. We continue to improve it to best support you.

<http://www.dar.emory.edu>



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