Program of Veterinary Care

Facilities
Animal housing and study areas will be used solely for teaching, research and outreach activities approved by the Central Michigan University (CMU) IACUC. CMU shall be responsible for providing all the equipment necessary to operate the animal facilities. The veterinarian shall be available for consultation on procurement and operation of the equipment for medical treatment, euthanasia, etc.

Animal Procurement and Transportation
Potential vendors should be evaluated for the quality of animals supplied by them and the ability to provide information on genetics and pathogen status, when available. Similar information should be available on animals received from other institutions. Animals should be transported both on and off campus using methods to avoid the risk of zoonoses, provide protection against the environment, overcrowding, physical trauma and allow for access to food and water, when indicated.

Disease Prevention and Treatment
Every effort will be made to maintain separation of species and animals of defined health status from animals with unknown health status to limit the transmission of disease.

Newly arrived animals should be quarantined and stabilized for periods long enough to assess their health status, reduce shipping stress and adapt to the new environment. This will vary depending on the species, source of animals and planned use.

For farm animals, wild animals and random source animals, appropriate quarantine and isolation procedures must be employed.

Disease surveillance is a major component of the veterinary program. Animal colonies should be routinely monitored for the presence of parasitic, bacterial and viral agents that may cause clinical or subclinical disease.

Diagnosis of animal disease will be the responsibility of the veterinarian. When illness or injury is discovered, the principal investigator, or his/her designated back-up(s) should discuss the situation with the veterinarian to determine a course of action consistent with the research goals and IACUC approved activity. Actions may include treatment, relief of pain and suffering and/or euthanasia. Animals with infectious diseases must be isolated from others in separate locations appropriate for disease containment. If the whole colony may be potentially infected, it may be left in location for monitoring and/or treatment. If the principal investigator or a member of the animal care staff is not available, then the veterinarian or animal facility coordinators authorized by the veterinarian have the authority to protect the health and well-being of the institution's animal colonies. This authority should be exercised with the concurrence of the IACUC and the Institutional Official.
Animal Well-being
The program of veterinary care shall include promotion and monitoring of the well-being of animals prior to, during and after the approved activities. This program shall include specific consideration of improving and enriching an animal's environment to minimize the development of physical or behavioral abnormalities to the extent that such efforts do not compromise the research objectives.

Field Researcher Guidance
If CMU field researchers observe animals exhibiting abnormal behavior, and the animals have not been handled as part of an IACUC approved study, researchers are not responsible for providing treatment/care. CMU researchers are encouraged to report their observations to local authorities, e.g., DNR, local law enforcement, when appropriate.