

UCSD CAMPUS NOTICE
OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR- RESEARCH

May 9, 2006

ALL ACADEMICS AND STAFF INVOLVED WITH ANIMAL RESEARCH IN UCSD VIVARIA

SUBJECT: ANIMAL CARE PROGRAM – PER DIEM RATE INCREASES

This announcement is to inform all interested parties that the Animal Care Program (ACP) is proposing an increase in animal per diem rates to be effective October 1, 2006. This is necessary because costs have continued to increase over the last nine years with no rate adjustments since 1996.

In recent years, ACP has made significant organizational changes, made improvements with new systems, and negotiated new contracts with vendors, all of which have increased efficiency and kept costs down to investigators. Nevertheless, we are now projecting a budget deficit in the coming year, and the animal per diem rate increase will enable the Animal Care Program to operate at breakeven.

All grant proposals shall incorporate the October 1, 2006 and future rate increases. The projected standard mouse rates through 2010-11 are shown below. The complete rate schedule will be available on ACP's Web Site at www.animalhealth.edu once it is approved by the Campus Rate Recharge Committee.

Standard Mouse Rate (Only)	Current as of May 2006	Proposed as of Oct. 2006 – June 2007 Year 1	Proposed as of July 2007 – June 2008 Year 2	Proposed as of July 2008 - June 2009 Year 3	Proposed as of July 2009 - June 2010 Year 4	Proposed as of July 2010 – June 2011 Year 5
Mouse	\$0.533	\$0.553	\$0.573	\$0.593	\$0.613	\$0.633

Although ACP has consistently maintained competitive rates, it has experienced cost pressures associated with salary retention issues, new required positions, 3% salary increase effective 10/1/05, an additional 4% (TX/RX) salary increase effective 01/01/06, replacement of vehicles, updating obsolete vivarium equipment, and the opening of three new buildings (LBR, MCCT, and School of Pharmacy).

Even with the rate increase, UCSD's charges to researchers will be low relative to those of our peer institutions. A recent per diem rate survey of 20 peer private and public animal care institutions shows that UCSD has the second lowest rates. Even with these increases, we will remain at the low end of the distribution.

In the future, ACP will continually re-evaluate and provide cost accounting reports that reflect actual expenses per species. We will make every effort to identify new cost savings in order to keep per diem rates as low as possible and make some of the projected future increases preventable.

Thank you for understanding the current budget climate and for these unavoidable per diem increases. Please contact Marisa Jolstead, the Animal Care Program Management Services Officer, with any questions or comments.

Richard Attiyeh
Vice Chancellor for Research