

# Animal Source



## ARP Welcomes New Facilities Manager

We are pleased to announce the arrival of Jennifer Kuhns, our new Facilities Manager. Jenn comes to us from Pfizer, Inc. where she was employed as a manager for several animal facilities. Jenn will be making rounds to all of our facilities and is looking forward to working with all of you. Please see her short bio below.



Jennifer D. Kuhns graduated from Cornell University in 1993 with a BS in animal science. After graduation she worked for a year at Cornell in the department of Medical & Veterinary Entomology as a research/animal technician. In 1994 she enrolled in the graduate program at Hahnemann Medical School in Philadelphia, PA. Jenn graduated in 1996 with a Master of Laboratory Animal Science degree. Her “practicum” (practical work experience, thesis equivalent) was completed at SmithKline Beecham in King of Prussia, PA from January to May 1996. After graduation she was employed by Hahnemann University for two years as a supervisor for fifteen animal care technicians and three separate vivariums in the city of Philadelphia. In 1998 she left Philadelphia and relocated to Groton, CT to work for Pfizer, Inc. in the department of World Wide Comparative Medicine.

## University of California Scientists Attacked

Two University of California Santa Cruz researchers were targeted by firebombs in early August 2008. A car belonging to an unnamed research scientist was destroyed by a bomb on the morning of August 2. A few minutes later the nearby residence of neuroscientist David Feldheim was damaged by a second bomb. Dr. Feldheim is an assistant professor of molecular, cell, and developmental biology who studies retinal and neural development in mice. Dr. Feldheim, his wife and children escaped by climbing out a second floor bedroom window.

## PSU Animal Resource Program

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*Visit the ARP  
website at  
[www.research.psu.  
edu/arp](http://www.research.psu.edu/arp)  
for answers to your  
animal use questions*

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## Using CO2 to Euthanize Rodents

The start of the school year means an influx of new students and staff working in the animal facilities. Euthanasia of rodents is often included in their job duties. It is important that all personnel be properly trained in the use of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) euthanasia equipment to ensure success with this method.

Inexperienced staff and students should receive training and supervision by experienced personnel when performing rodent euthanasia. In addition, step-by-step instructions are posted near each CO<sub>2</sub> euthanasia area in the animal facilities. Animal caretakers are also able to provide training or assistance.

The appropriate steps for euthanasia of rodents with CO<sub>2</sub> are:

1. Connect the tube from the CO<sub>2</sub> tank to the closed container of rodents.



2. Turn the top knob on the CO<sub>2</sub> tank **counterclockwise** to open.
3. The knob on the flow regulator may be adjusted to control gas flow if needed.
4. Allow the CO<sub>2</sub> gas to flow **gently** into the container.

5. **Confirm the animals are dead** before disposal. Death may be confirmed by:

- Keeping the animals in the closed container for at least one minute after respiration and body movement stops.
- Cervical dislocation
- Making a stab incision into the chest cavity.

6. **Turn off the CO<sub>2</sub> tank by turning the top knob clockwise.**

7. Place dead animals inside a plastic bag in the animal carcass freezer.

8. Clean and dry the animal container if it will be reused for euthanasia.

## ARP Announces New Assistant Manager

Donalee McElrath has accepted the position of Assistant Manager, Laboratory Animal Facilities, for the Animal Resource Program beginning August 25, 2008. Donalee's vision and expertise will be vital to our program's continued growth and development.

Donalee graduated from Penn State University in 1990 with a BS in Animal Science. After graduation, Donalee moved to Laramie, WY to pursue a master's degree in Reproductive Biology from the University of Wyoming. Upon completion of her degree, she moved back east and was employed in various science and technology positions including contract DNA sequencing, *in vitro* fertilization clinic technician, and community college biology instructor. After moving to State College in 1996, she has been employed at Penn State University—first as a senior laboratory technician in the Biochemistry and Molecular Biology department and more recently as the laboratory coordinator for the Animal Resource Program. She also served as the interim facilities manager of the ARP after Donna Carey retired.

We are delighted with Donalee's previous service to the ARP, and look forward to working with her in this new capacity to further our program's commitment to exemplary animal care and research support.



*University of California Scientists Attacked, continued from page 1.*

Animal rights activists are suspected to be behind these attacks although no suspects have been named or arrests made. Activists have been actively targeting UCSC in the last year with acts of vandalism, trespassing, mass emails and distribution of leaflets threatening specific UCSC research scientists. The FBI is investigating the bombing incidents.

Animal rights activists often attempt to obtain employment in laboratories for the purpose of collecting information, photographs or video that can be used against researchers. Security consulting firms and those who have experienced animal activist infiltration offer important advice to help reduce the likelihood of inadvertently hiring an animal activist.

Tips for screening potential employees:

- Verify applicant schools, previous employers, home address and phone number.
- Check references extensively, and in addition, call other individuals who may know the applicant or know who to contact to find out if the person is legitimate.
- Thoroughly interview applicants and engage them in conversation. Ask them about their past employment and experiences with animals. Ask practical knowledge questions designed to reveal if they really have worked around animals. Ask them to describe in detail their experience with animal research and their thoughts on the ethics of the use of animals in research.
- Look for the applicant's involvement in relevant organizations, clubs, societies or involvement in inappropriate causes.
- When appropriate use criminal background checks and/or self-disclosure questions on the employment application form to help identify criminal convictions.
- After an individual is hired make sure they have an appropriate probationary period where they are not allowed to work in animal rooms by themselves.

## Animal Resource Program

101 Centralized Biological  
Laboratory  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA 16802

(814) 865-1495  
Fax: (814) 865-3685

Mouse Biomethodology Seminar  
September 19, 2008  
1-4 pm  
Centralized Biological Lab  
Call 865-1495 to  
register to attend

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*The Animal Resource Program (ARP) is committed to providing PSU research personnel with high quality animal care services and facilities, to facilitate and improve animal research, and to ensure the health, well-being and humane treatment of all animals at PSU. ARP provides veterinary and diagnostic services, personnel training and expertise in laboratory animal, agricultural and wildlife technology and medicine. ARP veterinarians have specialized training and are available to assist with animal model development, experimental design, budget projections and grant preparation. Participation in collaborative research projects is welcomed.*

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## Expanded Diagnostic and Research Services Available for PSU Researchers

ARP has added ultrasound and digital radiography to its menu of research and clinical services available for PSU investigators. ARP can perform these services in our lab for many species. Call 865-1495 for information on scheduling and fees.

- 1) Clinical Pathology: Tests include expanded CBC, serum chemistries, blood gases, electrolytes, and fibrinogen.
- 2) Ultrasound: May be utilized for diagnostic imaging as well as research applications.
  - a. Capable of imaging all sizes of animals.
  - b. Color flow Doppler, continuous wave and pulse wave Doppler available.
  - c. Tissue Velocity Mapping capabilities.
  - d. Applications include cardiac, obstetric and cancer studies.
- 3) Digital Radiography
  - a. All sizes of animals and any of the many PSU species.
  - b. Radiographs digitally available within 2 minutes.
  - c. Able to save, send, and digitally enhance images.
  - d. Completely portable for agricultural animals.