

VERTEBRATE ANIMALS

The Center for Comparative Medicine and Surgery (CCMS) is a large, centrally managed, shared resource supporting animal research and teaching via veterinary, husbandry care, and research collaboration with the faculty at Mount Sinai. The program has been fully accredited by the American Association of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC), unit #000002, since April 18, 1966. Our institutional Public Health Service (PHS) animal welfare assurance number is A3111-01. The program is licensed under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a Research Facility, No. 21-R-040. The CCMS is under the direction of a full time veterinary staff, headed by a DVM, Diplomate, ACLAM. All animals must be procured through the central business office of the CCMS (<http://www.mssm.edu/ccms/>). All animal use proposed in the grant application is reviewed by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. The Center provides assistance with research protocol design, clinical and anatomic pathology, and training of research personnel in the care, bio-methodology, and use of laboratory animals. There are three primary sites of operation: (1) the central administrative offices in the Annenberg Building, 26th floor. Various large animal species and rodents are also housed in the Annenberg Research building; (2) Icahn Medical Institute (IMI) and (3) Atran Building are primarily dedicated to rodent housing. Additional support areas within CCMS are: large animal surgical support suite (2 cardiac cath labs, 1 cardiovascular surgical suite, 1 general surgical room, 3 dedicated rodent surgical/procedure rooms, and large animal surgical recovery suite); Comparative Pathology Diagnostic Laboratory (CPDL). The faculty of the CCMS consists of four full time veterinarians: (Director, DVM/DACLAM; Head, Small Animal Medicine, MS/DVM/DACLAM; Head, Large Animal Medicine/Surgery, DVM; and Veterinary Pathologists, DVM). The Husbandry operation is managed by an Operations Manager and three full time Supervisors. All are certified at the Laboratory Animal Technologist level (LATg) by the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS). An ongoing in-house training and post-approval compliance program is in place and conducted by a full time Training/Compliance Coordinator (MS/LATg). The institution also supports a weekly AALAS certification training program for all husbandry and research personnel interested in certification.