Date: May 15, 2018

To: Investigators Using Animals - Centralized Facilities

From: Thea Brabb, D.V.M., Ph.D.
Professor and Chairman

Pamela L Nazari
Budget/Fiscal Operations Supervisor

SUBJECT: Comparative Medicine Recharge Center Rates for 2018-19

Attached is the new rate schedule for the Department of Comparative Medicine animal facilities and services. The new rates are effective May 25, 2018.

The schedule is based on a comprehensive rate analysis performed in accordance with the principles outlined in the Cost Analysis and Rate Setting Manual for Animal Resource Facilities (NIH Publication No. 80-2006).

The 2018-19 rates follow principles established by the School of Medicine rate oversight committee, and have been approved by the SOM Dean’s Office. The University of Washington’s Management Accounting and Analysis unit ensured the rates comply with federal and university policies.

Recharge centers such as this one are required to operate on a break-even basis over the course of a year. Approved increases of 2.0% to 6.0% for per diems and other service rates were necessary to recover costs. We have also implemented cost cutting measures that include:

- Continued reduction of non-salary expenses. The 2018-19 non-salary expenses are budgeted 2% lower than for the previous year.
- We are in the process of consolidating the cage washing and autoclaving process in some of the facilities. For example the new ARCF (Animal Research Care Facility) will be supporting Foege and the K-wing for their animal cages & racks cleaning.

Attached also are our per diem rate projections 2019 through 2024 to assist you in planning future budgets. Please review these long range rate projections carefully. Assuming that our levels of core funding remain stable, a commitment has been made to attempt to keep rate increases to no greater than 5.0% in the next year (to account for salary increases) and 2% (or the prevailing rate of inflation) in subsequent years for all species. Circumstances beyond Comparative Medicine’s control such as mandated changes in the salary program or benefits rate; unanticipated changes in the cost of feed and bedding; or major facilities expenses, animal science or veterinary service expenses necessary to address overarching colony health or regulatory agency issues could result in larger rate increases. The new Research and Care Facility (ARCF) was opened in 2017, and the impact of this new building on the per diem rates is still currently under review.

Trends in the use of certain species and practices change over time. For example, the increased use of non-terrestrial species (particularly zebrafish) and increased housing of rodents and other species at ABSL-2 or ABSL-3 levels. These require focused expertise, regulatory oversight, care and/or...
supplies (extra PPE for instance). We continue to look for opportunities to control costs with increasingly efficient operations and, when advantageous, switching vendors or negotiating better prices, among other things, keeping the health and well-being of the animals and your research as the first and foremost consideration.

Because of the high cost of maintaining diabetic mice, it is Comparative Medicine’s intent to charge a greater per diem rate these animals starting in 2019. The increased per diem rate will factor in the more frequent cage changes needed. These greater rates may also apply to other categories of rodents that require more frequent services performed by our personnel. We have identified the Principal Investigators to whom this pricing policy will apply and will notify them shortly with a tentative fee schedule which they can incorporate in their grant applications. Any researcher who is thinking about using animals that require frequent cage changes should notify our department immediately, so that they will be on the mailing list for updates.

We appreciate your input on ways to both reduce costs and enhance services within the facility. If you have any suggestions, or questions regarding the rates or how they were derived, please contact Pamela L. Nazari at pamn@u.washington.edu at extension 6-6254.

attachments

cc: Departmental Administrators and Budget Contacts