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The Gateway

Research animal facilities closed

by Rod Campbell

Important diabetes and cardiovascular research has been put on hold at the U of A due to a lack of funding.

Financial aid is needed to repair facilities in the Dentistry/Pharmacy building used for holding animals required in research.

The holding area was closed down last July by the Canadian Council on Animal Care because it no longer met required standards, said Dr. David Neil, director of Animal Care Services for Health Sciences.

The CCAC is a national organization which sends a panel of expert volunteers to assess animal care in research environments.

"We've been trying for 9 months to resolve the problem," says Dr. Brian Dunford, Animal Policy and Welfare Chairman. "The University had no money, and we couldn't get money from the Alberta Heritage Foundation."

Dunford estimates the renovations to the holding area will run around \$300,000.

"Research is being severely hampered because of this facility being closed down."

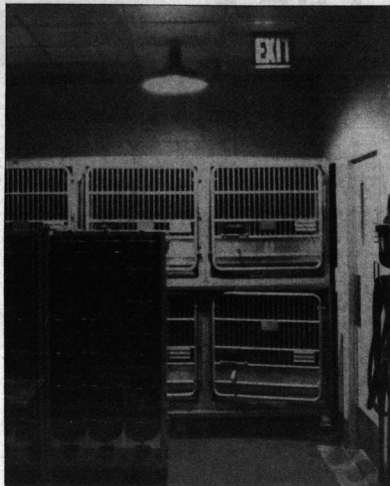
Dr. Ray Rajotte, Director of the University Surgical and Medical Institute, agrees: "It is serious and it's causing problems. A lot of our experiments have been put on hold."

The University has placed a high priority on the renovations, says Rajotte. "That was reconfirmed to me at the [Monday's] General Faculty Council meeting. Dr. Horowitz [U of A president] said that it was placed as very high priority on the budget for next year."

Rajotte does not know when the funding will be available.

Horowitz stressed Tuesday that the matter was of the greatest urgency.

"All I am waiting for is word from the government regarding our total



The closed animal holding facilities

photo Bruce Gardner

renovations budget for next year that will enable us to proceed," says Horowitz.

"We may even be able to proceed earlier. I have my people checking whether there's any money we can use for renovations."

The holding facilities fell into disrepair through constant use over the last twenty years. An estimated 800 animals, mainly dogs and pigs, are used each year for experiments, said Neil.

"The animals were well cared for but the facilities were not easily sanitized. We had the situation where it got increasingly more difficult control wound infections."

Lack of adequate sized dog cages and a poor air cleansing system contributed to the difficulties with cleanliness.

Most of the animals used for long term experiments have now been moved to University facilities at Ellerslie.

Alberta SPCA president Joy Ripley feels the animals are not suffering undue hardship.

"I am very confident that everything that can be done is being done to protect the animals at the University of Alberta," said Ripley. "The people there are very conscientious."

Expand your horizons — Int'l Week

by Roberta Franchuk

Events of an international flavor will be featured during International Week, March 7 to 12.

Speakers, fairs, demonstrations, and films will be offered across campus throughout the week. International Week is hosted by the International Centre, located at 400 HUB International (formerly HUB Mall).

An always-popular and controversial event is the Third World Film Festival, three days of films and workshops held in the Tory Lecture Theatre March 4-6.

Information on working, studying or volunteering abroad will be available from many sources, including a Non-Governmental Organization Fair March 9 and 10 in the Arts Court Lounge, an International Academic Exchange Fair March 11 at the International Centre, and an overview of Overseas Opportunities March 9 at the International Centre.

International culture will be emphasized all week. A Craft Fair will be held in SUB March 10, and an International Food Fair will be held in SUB March 8 and 9. In addition, there will be exhibits of art, drama, dance,

singing, and fashion throughout the week.

Human rights and legal questions will be addressed at forums presented by the Red Cross, the Palestine Action Committee, World University Services of Canada, and Citizens Against Racism and Apartheid, among others.

The week will end with a Splash Dance and a Native Student Services Fundraising Dance March 12.

Programs listing the events, times and dates are available around campus as well as at the International Centre.



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