

**Administrative Activities Review
 UA Research Vivarium (UARV)
 August 2018**

I. Basic Facts and Description of the Unit

The UA Research Vivarium (UARV) supports UA’s animal research, both internally and externally funded.

a. Mission & Goals

Mission:

As the designated animal facility for The University of Akron, the UARV’s mission is to provide healthy, well-cared-for animals, which are essential to supporting UA’s education and research mission, and maintaining the animal facility for their daily care.

In FY 2009, the former Biology Resource Center became a free-standing department and became part of the campus-wide University of Akron research enterprise. Functioning under the guidance and direction of the Office of Research Administration, UARV serves all colleges/departments on campus.

Goals:

- Diligently provide safe and clean living quarters, food, and water to all animal species under UARV’s care as required by federal regulations
- Provide all animals with environmental enrichment, veterinary care for illness or injury, and humane relief of pain or discomfort
- Facilitate compliance with all federal, state, and local regulations governing animal utilization in teaching, research, and testing.

Services

The UARV’s services to UA partners and to external entities are summarized below.

Critical Partners	Customers/ End-Users	Key Performance Analysis	Brief Assessment
Animal Welfare			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty • External Vendors • NEOMED (for veterinary services) • Federal regulatory agencies (OLAW, USDA, DEA) • No overlap or duplication of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty • External sponsors • Students 	Performance is based on activity within the facility.	Strength: Two full-time staff; strong veterinary services; only small animal research facility in Summit County. Challenge: HVAC and maintenance Opportunity: Future AAALAC accreditation.

Compliance (including the IACUC)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty • External Vendors • NEOMED (for veterinary services) • No overlap or duplication of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty • External sponsors • Students 	Performance is based on activity within the facility. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51 IACUC protocols • Untracked items: protocol personnel changes; annual reports; protocol modifications 	Strength: strong committee Challenge: non-adherence to approved protocols Opportunity: training
Training			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty • Students • No overlap or duplication of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty • Students • Other researchers using the facility (including post-docs, visiting scientists) 		Strength: Hands-on handling and surgical training by attending veterinarian. Challenge: reinforcement of training, especially with students. Opportunity: Develop a formal, comprehensive training program.

Resources

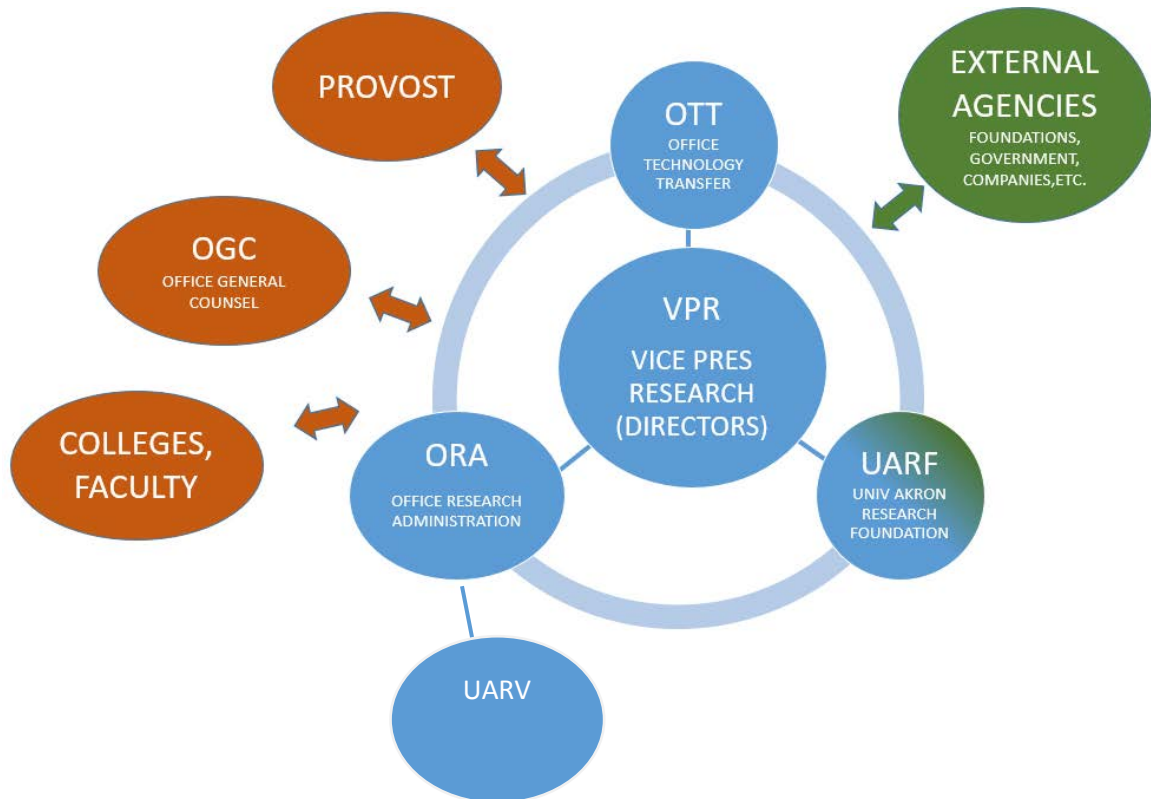


Figure 1. UARV (bottom) interacts with UA's research enterprise and external groups

Personnel		
Title	Key Functions/Description	FTE
Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Oversight of the daily operations of the facility, including care and husbandry of animals; monitor and schedule facility maintenance; develop and manage policies and procedures; oversee all purchases (animals, drugs, chemicals) in accordance with regulations; initiate training and education of personnel in proper use and care of lab animals; make recommendations on proper animal care and use to researchers; schedule veterinary consultations ▪ Maintain facility assurances and certifications with USDA and Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) ▪ Administer the IACUC 	1
Vivarium Technician	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Manage daily operations of the facility as directed by the Manager; maintain, sanitize, and organize the facility; maintain animal records; maintain the surgical suite; assist in pre-op, intra-op, and post-op procedures ▪ Assist Manager in training and education of facility users ▪ Supervise student assistants and monitor all facility users; provide technical assistance when needed 	1
Student Assistants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide care to animals, including food and water, and maintain cleanliness and sanitation of cages and facility; operate cage washing equipment and other types of cleaning/sanitizing equipment; perform general recordkeeping and observe and report changes in the animals as required; receive and process new animals; may collect biological specimens under the Supervisor's guidance. 	1

Financials

Since the Vivarium became a department under the research umbrella, the facility has experienced the major upheaval of the state-funded renovation of the entire facility, as well as instability with staffing and facility usage, and continuing and increasing building issues, and the budget over the last five years is reflective of this. Prior to FY18, annual PFOC repair charges were approximately \$7,000 annually. In FY18, PFOC charges totaled nearly \$18,000.

In July 2018, for the first time, the Vivarium is fully staffed by two full-time staff members, a half-dozen student assistants, and a consulting veterinarian (via agreement with NEOMED). The Vivarium Manager strives to hire Federal Work Study students when possible, and volunteer opportunities are also made available to undergraduate students.

Income is recovered from user accounts (generally external grants and contracts, start up, or departmental funds) via a daily charge (per diem) based on housing animals for a day (per cage) and is primarily related to cost accounting consistent with NIH grant rules. Additional income is derived from special services to investigator. The new Vivarium Technician will allow the UARV to offer additional services, especially pre- and post-operative care where specialized assistance is most needed.

The creation of a sales account (309892) to track per diems (“charge-backs”) now provides consistent accounting treatment of these funds and will prove beneficial moving forward in setting accurate and reasonable per diem rates for UARV’s UA customers, and setting competitive per diem rates for external customers.

Equipment and technology

Up-to-date computers and software (must be compatible with faculty, and external agencies)
Fax machine, because some external entities require this method of communication
Color scanner/printer/copiers
Network speed/capabilities
Cage Washer
Surgical Suite equipment

Space

ASEC. Approx. 7,600 sq. ft. The UARV has restricted access and includes 15 animal housing rooms (including the aquatic suite), 3 quarantine rooms, 10 procedural rooms, and a 3-room surgical suite. It also contains rooms mandated as “clean” and “dirty,” storage rooms for food and bedding, co-ed locker rooms with shower; equipment rooms for housing potable water system, gas manifold system, and chiller; as well as a conference room, break room, the Manager’s office, and a reception area.

II. Future plans

a. Potential Changes

1. A new HVAC system for FY2019 is in the capital budget. This will likely solve many of the temperature and humidity problems.
2. Given that Akron General and Summa have both discontinued their animal labs, the Vivarium at UA may be able to house some of this research (pending an update in accreditation)—and increase UA’s per-diem case charge.
3. With a push for more NIH funding, this is also likely to increase the demand for Vivarium animal facility needs by faculty and staff.

b. Trends

The budgetary trend is downward due to equipment needs from FY18 that were intermittent costs (e.g., autoclaves required for sterilization of surgical equipment).

FY	2017-2018 Actual	2018-2019 Budgeted
Compensation	\$ 87,153	\$ 84,592
Other Costs	<u>\$ 122,128</u>	<u>\$ 76,639</u>
	\$209,281	\$161,232
Revenue	\$ 66,102	Expect similar in FY19