

Quick & Dirty

Mid-Missouri AALAS Branch

Volume 1, Issue 2

Newsletter Date

09Sep13

MO State Penitentiary Tour



Don't let this scare you!

Fifteen Mid-Missouri AALAS members, friends, and family had a fun outing to the creepy MO State Penitentiary on June 29th. "The Walls" were built in 1826, during Andrew Jackson's Presidency and closed in 2004. Our tour began in the prisoner processing area with a

knowledgeable guide, Mark Schreiber, who had recently retired after a 42 year career in the Mo Department of Corrections. He had assisted in nearly 40 executions at the prison. We toured not only the old cell blocks and walked the catwalks overhead, but saw the solitary confinement cells, gang showers, death row, and the gas chamber. Even though it was a sunny afternoon, the decaying ruins of the prison had a ghostly, chilling feel to it. We were glad after the two hour tour to meet up at the Prison Brews restaurant down the street, have a beer, compare notes, eat a great dinner, and listen to some live music. You can read more about the prison and available tours at <http://www.visitmo.com/missouri-state-penitentiary-tours.aspx>

-Jane

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Penitentiary Tour | 1 |
| AALAS Study Group | 1 |
| Cookie Recipe | 2 |
| Mini Swine Enrichment | 2 |
| LAMA | 3 |
| Favorite Work Animal | 3 |
| Word from the President | 4 |

AALAS Study Group

What: AALAS certification study group

When: Every other Thursday at 5:30 (Meeting dates: 9/5, skip 9/19 since that is our branch meeting with a guest speaker, 10/3, 10/17, skip 10/31

Halloween, 11/14, skip 11/28 Thanksgiving, 12/12, skip 12/26. That takes us out for the year.)

Where: RADIL (S101)

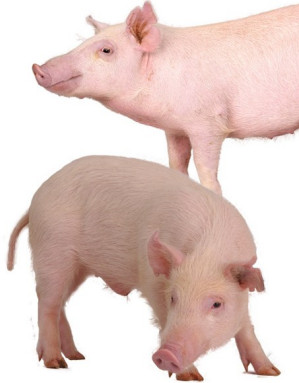
The meetings are informal, you can bring a snack and

drink. There are people in all three levels (ALAT, LAT, and LATg). We try to cover a chapter every time we meet. Please contact Angela Goerndt (goerndta@missouri.edu) with any questions. Thanks!

Special points of interest:

- Next Branch meeting
- Mini Swine training
- Contest for Newsletter name
- Next social meeting

Quick & Dirty



Here Piggy piggy!!

"We evaluate leadership and proper communication skills among participating leaders and give winning prizes."

Performance On-Cue (POC) Tournament

For the past couple of months Sinclair Bio Resources, LLC has been working hard on creative behavior modification programs. With help of Germain Rivard, DVM, IPSAV, PhD, DACVB-eligible, Director of Animal Welfare and Veterinary Behavior Medicine at Sinclair Bio-Resources, a POC tournament was created for all personnel to participate. The goals of a POC tournament are to communicate properly and learn how to prevent and overshadow fear and anxiety in miniature swine. The objectives are to 1- Train a miniature swine to complete an obstacle course with confidence and 2- Have a miniature swine that responds correctly to cues instead of obeying by fear. Miniature swine are trained by staff called 'leader' to respond to cues. **POC training consists mostly of teaching miniature swine to respond to cues for reward and occurs every time staff interacts with a miniature swine.** At a POC tournament, leaders lead their trained miniature swine through a maze of obstacles for a jackpot of food reward placed in a transport cart. We evaluate leadership and proper communication skills among participating leaders and give winning prizes. The winner of the POC tournament is the leader with the miniature swine that has the lowest anxiety score as defined by its willingness to move forward or not to escape, vocalization frequency, body posture, and elimination as well as its response to cues from the leader. The total score is the Cue-Reward score minus the Anxiety score. Equal scores are ranked by best time to complete the obstacles course. POC Certificates are attributed to Miniature Swine that successfully complete the tournament. With the right attitude and leadership skills, anybody can be a POC tournament winner! -Dr. Rivard

Newsletter Name Contest

Hello Everyone,

Mid-MO AALAS Branch needs your help!

We are in need of a name for our newsletter. "Quick & Dirty" means just that, until an official name can be chosen. Please submit your ideas by October 9, 2013 to Jennifer Blair at jblair@sinclairresearch.com

All of the entries will then be made available to

vote on. If there is a tie, then those 2 or more will be offered up in a second vote.

Creativity and humor encouraged! Subtle hints to what AALAS is also a big plus!

So have fun and I look forward to all of the entries

*You may bring them to the 19Sep13 Meeting! -Jennifer Blair



Yummy!!

Oatmeal Molasses Cookies

I have made these numerous times, as cookies for the farm, as treats for the dogs, goats, sheep, or horses.

Oatmeal Molasses Cookies

1 cup granulated sugar

½ cup shortening

1 egg

½ cup molasses

2 cups sifted flour

1 teaspoon salt

1 ½ teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 cups quick-cooking oats

Cream sugar and shortening

together in a large mixing bowl. Add egg and molasses; beat well. Add sifted dry ingredients and mix well. Add vanilla then stir in oatmeal. Drop from teaspoon onto a greased baking sheet. Bake at 375 for 10-12 minutes. Makes ~4 dozen cookies. -Marie

Angela Goerndt, Study Group Leader

I'm a Sr. Research Lab Tech for the Rodent Resource Centers at the University of Missouri. I manage the rodent breeding colonies, perform dissection, and help Postdoc students with their various research projects.

I attained my Bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University in 2004. While I was a student and after I graduated, I worked as an Animal Caretaker for the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames. I learned a lot about using and caring for numerous species, and about the laws and regulations for using animals in research. I was very interested in compliance and became a member of the IACUC.

In the fall of 2005 I moved with my husband Michael to Corvallis, Oregon. Growing up in Iowa, it was a whole new experience living on the West Coast. I was so glad when I found my niche working for the Laboratory Animal Resources Center at Oregon State University. I got to meet a lot of interesting people in research. A lot of the animal research was for the Linus Pauling Institute: Micronutrient Research for Optimum Health.

In 2009 I became the Manager of the Necropsy Lab for the College of Vet Med. It was the nastiest and most exhausting, but most interesting and rewarding job I've ever had. I had everything on my tables from the usual cats and dogs; livestock such as horses and cows; wildlife like mountain lions and elk; to the most unusual (at least for this Midwestern girl) sea lions and zebras. Most days I was covered from head to toe in... well, you know, but I loved it!

In the spring of 2010 Michael accepted a Postdoctoral position at MIZZOU. As much as the beauty of the West Coast had grown on me, I was ready to come home. And even though Missouri isn't exactly Iowa, I have made a lot of friends that make it feel like home. Michael and I are happy living here with our two horses LittleBitt and Artax; two cats Anastasia and Sasha; and three rats (who I adopted from work) Ben, Basil, and 007 (that was his ear tag number) who we like to call Bond, James Bond.



"It was the nastiest and most exhausting, but most interesting and rewarding job I've ever had"

LAMA

The Laboratory Animal Management Association (LAMA) was founded on October 29, 1984. The purpose was to meet the needs of a growing entity within the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS), whose focus was management and supervision. The objectives of the Association are:

- To promote the dissemination of ideas, experience, and knowledge
- To encourage continued education

- To act as spokesperson
- To actively assist in the training of managers

LAMA website – information pertinent to the management role in laboratory animal care. If you are interested more in LAMA please feel free to come talk Christal Huber or Jennifer Blair. We look forward to hearing from you!
-Jennifer

Favorite Animal: Jessica (Bob)

When I started in NHPs it was decided to try to teach the NHPs hand signals in order to have better cooperation during studies. Eventually a closed fist would be the signal for 'give me your hands'. I had quite a few NHPs that became wildly offended at having to 'earn' their treat and a few standoffish animals that looked at me as if to say 'that treat isn't worth having to touch you'. One of these standoffish animals was a handsome and impeccably groomed male named Miguel. He was never aggressive or angry, just reserved and uninterested in playing silly games. Until the day I walked in with dried mango, and then he suddenly came up, sat down in the front of his cage and looked at me. Calmly and quickly, making as little contact with me as possible, Miguel touched my hand and stuffed the resulting mango into his pouch. Not wanting to overtax (or over feed him, I moved on to the next NHP. Miguel threw the typical tantrum, screeching and banging on his cage, and I not wanting to encourage his behavior with my attention, ignored it. After a few minutes he went quiet and I looked at him out of the corner of my eye. He was sitting there, with his usually impassive face pressed beseechingly against the bars of his cage, his arm as far out the feed slot as it would go, and his tiny little hand tightly contracted into a fist. I was astonished, here was an animal that wanted something from me and was trying to show me what he wanted, and actually mimicking the behavior he was trying to solicit from me. I was so surprised and excited to have this usually standoffish animal demanding my attention. I sat down and played the game with him till I was out of mangos. -Jessica (Bob)



You ready for this?!



Mid-Missouri AALAS Branch

Meet our people behind the scenes.

President/President Elect: Christal Huber

Secretary: Marie Elliott

Treasurer: Gail Kraus

Technician Branch Rep: Andrea Vandeloecht

Membership Contact: Marie Elliott

Board Members:

Angela Goerndt

Jennifer Blair

Dana Weir

Carrie Harris



Letter from our President

I hope that everyone has had a great summer! I know that mine sure has been busy. The majority of my summer has involved attending fairs, watching my son, Will, show his market lambs. As busy as this time of year may be, I enjoy watching him progress over the years. Not only have his showing skills improved, but his compassion and interest for animals has grown over the years as well. This quality will always make me proud of him, no matter how many ribbons he may win. Because for many of us in the field of laboratory animal science this is where it starts, having compassion for animals. It may seem like a small contribution, but the animals we work with are providing us with the amazing gift of medical advancement, which can touch so many lives. And for that I am truly thankful. Why are you in laboratory animal medicine? If you have a story you'd like to share please let me know. I can't wait to see everyone at the next meeting! And as always if you have any questions shoot me an e-mail.

Christal Huber BS, CMAR, RLATG
Mid-MO AALAS President
chuber@sinclairresearch.com

Did you enjoy our article on POC training?

Check out Sinclair Bio-Resources poster at the National AALAS meeting.



You want me to cut this?!

Mid-Missouri AALAS Branch Upcoming Meeting

When: Sept 19th, 2013

Where: RADIL, 4011 Discovery Dr Columbia, MO 65201 rm S101

Guest Speaker: Dr. Tessman on Cattle Handling.

Time: Food served 5:30-6:00pm

*free for members; guest are encouraged to give a donation if eating....

Guest speaker 6:00-7:00pm

Any questions please contact your facility representative.

Please RSVP by Sept 12.

ILAM Registration

Begins October 1st

The Institute for Laboratory Animal Management (ILAM) is an AALAS educational program developed to provide instruction in management concepts that is applicable to the laboratory animal science industry and to

enhance communication, team building, and networking among colleagues with mutual interests.

Help Your Newsletter

If you wish to submit article(s) for the newsletter, please send to Jennifer Blair at jblair@sinclairresearch.com

Mission Statement: AALAS is an association of professionals that advances responsible laboratory animal care and use to benefit people and animals.