

The PCB and PRBB have created the new functional unit "PCB-PRBB Animal Facility Alliance", pooling the resources of both institutions animal facilities from 1st January 2015.

# PCB Animal Facility

Since 2000, the Animal Facility has been part of the technology on offer through the PCB, with the aim of driving research with animal models both through its service-oriented approach and its specialization in guiding, designing and conducting projects for third parties and for internal research in the fields of biomedicine and biotechnology. The PCB Animal Facility uses a new model for research-support facilities, based on 3 key focal points:

- To ensure the health and wellbeing of animal models used.
- To provide the best solutions to the needs of R&D&i projects.
- To guarantee regulatory compliance in the use of live research models.

The PCB Animal Facility provides high value-added support services in research, development and innovation (R&D&i) for research groups associated with the UB and PCB, companies and start-ups located at the PCB, and other public research centers and companies from the private sector (pharmaceutical, veterinary, agrifood, livestock, diagnostics, chemistry, etc.).

The services provided by the Animal Facility are structured into 3 main areas of action that generate large-scale synergies:

- Managing and maintaining existing models available to research groups, as well as breeding, care and upkeep of conventional or genetically modified models (GMO).
- Carrying out projects as a contract research organization (CRO), ensuring a quality environment for processes and/or products that comply with international standards.
- Designing and generating new models and experimental paradigms, as well as constantly updating existing ones in order to boost know-how while also increasing the platform's value added.

The PCB Animal Facility is a service center that ensures safety and results, based on the cutting-edge technology, top-notch professionals, quality guarantees and personalized service.

## Services

### Animal housing

- Managing purchases: import and export.
- Quarantine and monitoring health.
- Upkeep: changing and tagging cages, feeding and watering.
- Sterilizing material for SPF area: bedding, cages, food.
- Advising on animal welfare and medical issues.

### Maintenance and operations of facilities

- Computer-controlled monitoring of the environment with alarms.
- 24-h maintenance.
- Microbiological monitoring of water.



- Monitoring facility maintenance.
- Computer management software.
- Standardized work procedures.
- Waste management.

### For users

- Providing the clothing necessary to access the PCB Animal Facility.
- Quick, personalized response to any issues that may arise.
- Assistance and training in:
  - Guidance on animal health and welfare.
  - Updates on regulations regarding animal research.
  - Notification of specialized courses available.
- Periodic seminars.
- Services related to the Animal Welfare Committee (CEEA).
  - Assistance in drafting study protocols.
  - Assessment of protocols by CEEA.
  - Drafting reports.
- Archiving protocols, reports, minutes and list of accredited personnel.



### Specific techniques

- Anesthesia, analgesia, euthanasia.
- Administering fluids and drugs, inoculating cells, drawing blood or other fluids.
- Necropsy and tissue sampling.
- Administering hormones, mating, monitoring vaginal plugs, weaning and separation by sex.
- Vasectomies, rederivation, cryopreserving germ cells and embryos, transplanting ovaries.
- Behavioral phenotyping.
- Pathological anatomy service.
- Assistance in surgical procedures. Post-op treatment.
- Using radioisotopes in animals.
- Using shared laboratories and equipment.
- Other.

### Quality plan

The Barcelona Science Park has a Quality Assurance Unit that makes sure it is operated according to the strictest quality standards. This Unit also safeguards the quality of the services provided by the PCB Animal Facility by establishing and ensuring compliance with the Quality Plan established for:

**Personnel:** Highly qualified personnel with extensive experience in the field of animal experimentation that receive ongoing training to ensure their skills fit the changing needs of the market at all times.

**Facilities:** The PCB Animal Facility facilities were designed with help from professionals at other centers in order to facilitate optimal operations. To maintain the facilities, the PCB Animal Facility has a computer system that monitors temperature, humidity and light cycles at all times.

**Management software:** Daily management of the PCB Animal Facility is done by computer software designed especially for these facilities. This program allows users to communicate with PCB Animal Facility personnel 24 hours a day.

**Regulations:** In order to ensure proper functioning, Internal Rules have been established detailing rights, duties and recommendations for PCB Animal Facility users and personnel.

**Health and Safety of PCB Animal Facility personnel and users:** In coordination with the Barcelona Science Park health and safety regulations, the PCB Animal Facility has developed a Workplace Health and Safety Plan and an Emergency Plan specifically for its facilities. The Workplace Health and Safety Plan aims to ensure the rights of all users and personnel to effective protection in terms of health and safety, while the Emergency Plan aims to minimize the human and/or financial consequences of any emergency situation that may arise.

**Animal Welfare Committee:** Pursuant to current regulations established by the Government of Catalonia, the PCB Animal Facility has an Animal Welfare Committee.

