



**Stanford University
Department of Comparative Medicine – Veterinary Service Center**

This VSC document has been written to provide information useful in completing grant applications. Questions should be directed to Jennifer Lee (725-9901; jlee3@stanford.edu) or Valerie Fratus (723-4550; valerie.fratus@stanford.edu).

Grant Writing Tips

Completing Research Plan Section F, Vertebrate Animals, of your NIH Grant

Peer reviewers can adjust your priority score based on your responses to the five points in the vertebrate animals section of the research plan section of the PHS 398 instructions. Here is some basic information about veterinary care at Stanford University that you can use for point three, **Veterinary Care**:

Animal care at the Stanford University School of Medicine is under the care and supervision of the Department of Comparative Medicine's Veterinary Service Center (VSC). The facilities meet Federal and NIH guidelines for animal care and are accredited by AALAC. Animals can be purchased and maintained only through the VSC with an IACUC-approved protocol for that species. Round-the-clock, 7 day/week veterinary care is provided by the veterinarians of the Department of Comparative Medicine. Animal care staff are employed by, and supervised by, the VSC.

Completing the Resources (Animal Facilities) section of your NIH Grant

In this section of your application, you'll need to convince reviewers you have the equipment, space, staff, and facilities to conduct the research, including essential resources such as **Animal Facilities**:

All animal facilities (approximately 110,000 nsf) at Stanford are managed by the Veterinary Service Center (VSC) in the Department of Comparative Medicine. The VSC is part of a centralized system for laboratory animal care and complies with federal, state, and local guidelines for laboratory animal care: it is accredited by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC). Round-the-clock, 7-day/week veterinary care is provided by the veterinarians in the Department of Comparative Medicine who are certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine and the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Large Animal). In addition to animal husbandry areas the VSC contains 5 surgical suites and an Intensive Care/Recovery Room for postoperative care that contains Snyder units and is staffed by veterinary technicians. The surgery suites are fully equipped with inhalation anesthetic equipment for halothane and isoflurane as well as electrocautery and suction, EKG and blood pressure monitors, Bird respirators, circulating water blankets, standard operating tables, and surgical instruments, autoclave, X-ray unit, etc. The VSC also has fully equipped and staffed clinical pathology and microbiology laboratories and an animal necropsy laboratory. Veterinarians certified by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists provide diagnostic pathology. The diagnostic laboratory has microscopes (phase contrast and fluorescence), centrifuges, automated hematology analyzer (Cell-Dyne), blood-gas analyzer, serum chemistry analyzer, incubators, and an ELISA reader. It uses a SUNQUEST database for reporting. The diagnostic laboratories can perform: hematology, clinical chemistry, urinalysis, cytology, coagulation profiles, parasitology examinations, blood gas examinations, microbiologic and serological procedures. The necropsy laboratory has a downdraft table, refrigerator, balances and instruments. These facilities support the clinical responsibilities of the department and are available for use by investigators. Animal medical records will be fully electronic by the fall of 2006. Wireless computer access is currently available throughout the animal facility. Class II biosafety cabinets are also available for use by faculty and staff.