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College of Veterinary Medicine remains humane

By James Bernsen The Battalion

The use of animals in laboratory experiments has received much criticism lately, but Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine remains one of the leading schools in the country in the area of animal research.

The college was recently fully accredited by the American Association for Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care. Only 13 of the 27 veterinary schools in the United States are fully accredited by this association.

Frank Stein, director of A&M's Veterinary Medical Park, said the accreditation means A&M facilities meet or exceed all standards for laboratory

Three visitors from AAALAC toured the University's teaching and research facilities recently and confirmed that A&M met all guidelines.

Gene New, executive director of AAALAC, said the non-profit organization assures that animals used for research are treated appropriately.

"We're not an advocacy for or against using animals in research," he said. "But if, in fact, the research has been deemed appropriate, we assure that the animals' well-being is provided for.

Stein said the treatment of animals at

A&M has always been good, but A&M's veterinary school was not accredited before because a lack of central organization in the college.

Recent improvements in those areas impressed AAALAC, he said.

"There was no central leadership before," Stein said. "The only change was made in the administration.

New said accreditation often brings prestige and grants to the institution. 'There is no other accreditation

group," he said. "AAALAC has become the gold seal to assure the care of animals used in research.'

Stein said A&M will have more of a chance to gain grants because of the accreditation "This means a lot of places that do

research are more likely to give us funding," he said. A&M will have to produce an annual

report and will face review every three years to make sure they continue to uphold these standards. New said A&M must conform with the National Academy of Science's guide for

care and use of laboratory animals, in addition to any other regulations or requirements the school may be bound to In addition to colleges and universities,

AAALAC also accredits commercial, government and overseas institutions.



Tim Moog/The Battalion

Patches, a 5-foot-6-inch cow weighing more weeks which is used as a host culture in the than 3,000 pounds, donates blood every two study of cattle tick fever, also called babesiosis.

Fatal Laredo wreck reminder of 'hot pursuit' dangers

The Associated Press

LAREDO - A three-vehicle wreck that killed eight people is a tragic reminder that "hot pursuit" decisions of law officials chasing suspects can mean the difference between life and death. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration, at least 300 people have been killed nationwide in police-pursuit accidents in each of the past four years. "It's certainly one of the most difficult issues facing law enforcement. There's no question on that," said Mike Cox, a

spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety. Cox said officers must weigh the need for stopping a fleeing

suspect against the potential for danger to themselves or the

"Because our officers are often the only officers around, we have to rely on their judgment," said Cox, whose agency was not involved in the ill-fated chase Saturday night east of Laredo

The Webb County Sheriff Department said it had already given

"It's certainly one of the most difficult issues facing law enforcement. There's no question on that."

- Mike Cox, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety

up chasing a suspect before his stolen pickup truck slammed into two other pickups on Texas 359.

The suspect, still unidentified, died when the cars exploded on

Jorge Javier Rangel Sr. of Bruni; his wife, Cayetana; and their children, Leonor, 12; Jorge Javier, 10; and Roel, 8, were killed in

Hilario Quintanilla Jr., 23, and his wife, Gloria, 25, of Rio

Bravo, died in the other pickup, which had stopped on the shoulder of the highway

The chase began when the suspect, driving with only the parking lights on, made a U-turn in front of a U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint about 40 miles east of Laredo, authorities said.

A Border Patrol agent chased the suspect a few minutes, then Webb County sheriff's deputy picked up the pursuit at near 100 mph for about three more minutes, according to Humberto Gonzalez, the lead sheriff's investigator into the accident.

The suspect continued speeding several minutes after deputies had given up the chase, Gonzalez said. The wreck occurred about 5 miles east of Laredo, about 35 miles from the checkpoint where

it began.
"Our policy is to not pursue anybody if it's a danger to the officer or to the public," Gonzalez said.

Pursuit decisions are difficult, Gonzalez said, because authorities don't want to send out a message that suspects need only flee if they don't wish to be arrested.

Jail on wheels Fire Dep combats beach troublemakers

The Associated Press

GALVESTON - Rowdy a drunk beach-goers won't have take a ride to jail anymorejail is coming to them.

A mobile jail, a converted h complete with cells and book entrance and bonding facilities, will posted in the parking area of b alcohol-free Stewart Beach to de with troublemakers. Library

As far as drinking speed bi unrestricted areas, City Manag Doug Matthews said Monda Huffy 18 We have zero tolerance.'

The measure serves as warning that the city intends from he strictly enforce alcohol bans of Stewart Beach, Seawall Bouleve safekee and much of the open beachfron along Galveston Island's wester

Those processed through to mobile jail will either have to pro bond or remain in custody in municipal court convenes. Bu those arrested for drinking alcohol won't be released drunk

The decision to use the mobile jail comes in the midst of sprin break, but Matthews said othe Reader factors led to the decision Matthews said the spring break crowd actually has been remarkably problem-free th

Officials gearing up for the VIS busy summer season are pursi a highly publicized plan will discourage drinking and violence and court the more lucrative family market. The mobile jail is just one show of force.
"We're going to have a police."

officer stationed at each gate a grandson Stewart Beach and at R.A. Apffe authoritie Park," Matthews said.

"And after 4 p.m. on Saturdays discover and Sundays we'll have six noon alo additional police officers so we Market can have more officers visible in the parking lot where the drinking occurred.'

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NOTICE OF **PUBLIC MEETING**

The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) will host a PUBLIC MEETING to discuss air and water quality aspects of an application filed by Texas A&M University for an animal research center.

The public is invited to participate in the meeting. The Staff of the TNRCC will moderate the meeting and answer questions about the permit review process. Representatives from TAMU will give an informational presentation and answer questions about the proposed project.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 1994 at 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Beef Center, the only new building currently in the Animal Science Teaching, Research and Extension Complex. The Complex is located at the junction of FM 60 and the Brazos River bridge on the south side of FM 60 between Kemp Road and the Brazos River.

Persons desiring more information about the meeting should contact Ms. Susan Jere White, Staff Attorney, TNRCC, at 12100 Park 35 Circle, Austin, Texas 78753, or call (512) 239-0454.