

Hyderabad varsity sets up animal research facility

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The University of Hyderabad (UoH) has established a new facility for experimental research on animals.

It is one of the largest in the country for research on small animals such as rodents and rabbits.

"In addition to meeting the needs of the UoH, the Animal House can be outsourced to other research institutes and corporates too," said M Bramanandam, coordinator.

"The ₹6-crore facility has a built-up area of 1,500 square metres, spread over two floors and has 63 rooms to house the animals. Additionally, it has provision to rear and undertake experiments with other animal models such as insects and fishes," he said.

The holding capacity of the animal house is nearly 12,000 that include rats, mice, rabbits and genetically modified transgenic

mice/immuno compromised animals.

Five different features for research offered will be mouse and rats; mosquito breeding; insect-related work; silkworm rearing and studies; fisheries; and transgenic animals, Bramanandam said.

The University plans to tap the potential to generate revenues through doing small-scale trials and animal related work for research institutes and pharma companies.

Vice-Chancellor Appa Rao said the animal house facility would provide an opportunity to perform cutting-edge research for investigators to publish in high impact journals.

The facility has received funding from the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). The erstwhile animal facility of the National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, has been shifted along with staff to the National Animal Resources Facility (NARF).