



Weekend

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RODENT REMEDY

"I'm not saying we should thrust ourselves back into the Dark Ages — if the medicine is there and a cure is there, we should take advantage of it."

Mitch Goldsmith, social relations and policy sophomore and event coordinator for Students Promoting Animal Rights, or SPAR

Rats, mice often used in scientific research at MSU to study diseases, treatment options

By Liz Kersjes
THE STATE NEWS

Soon, lab animals might not spend their entire lives in the laboratory. Thanks to one student and a mistake in a shipment of hamsters to an MSU lab for a research project, the university might create an official policy for placing rodents unneeded for research up for adoption. "The researchers only needed male hamsters, but for some reason they sent female hamsters too," said junior Erin Schultz, an animal technician who works primarily with rodents in an on-campus animal facility. "The females would've just been euthanized — and I didn't want to see them euthanized because I thought they were really cute."

Schultz found homes for the hamsters and received a fair amount of interest from other students in adopting more animals, Director of Campus Animal Resources Rob Werner said. "It heightened my awareness of the issue," said Werner, an MSU-attending veterinarian. "The main thing is we want to make sure we do what is best for the animals."

Adoption policy

The university occasionally adopts out dogs and cats — but it's relatively rare to adopt out rodents, although there is an unstated policy that the university will try, Werner said.

Most of the adopted rodents have gone to people who have worked with the researchers and know them personally.

There are several factors to consider when deciding how and who should receive them. It can be difficult to know whether a student will properly care for a rodent,

which requires different care than a dog or cat, Werner said.

"Occasionally people have pet snakes and think, 'Can I get free food for it?'" Werner said. "And sometimes kids around the fraternity house get a rat and want to see if it likes beer or not."

MSU also has a policy against pets in dorms, aside from non-poisonous, non-carnivorous fish — and the university could be held liable if an adopted animal bites someone, Werner said.

Because of such issues, no more adoptions of lab animals will be permitted until an official adoption policy is defined and established with the Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee.

If research animals are not adopted, there are two other options: The lab can house and care for the animal until it dies naturally, or the animal can be euthanized.

Since it can be expensive to

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To hear Dr. Breedlove explain why animal research is necessary, visit stateneews.com

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHELSEA MCGORISK / THE STATE NEWS

HOCKEY

Spartans can't muster any offense in 3-0 loss to UMass-Lowell

By Alex DiFilippo
THE STATE NEWS

The MSU hockey team's offense was nonexistent in their home opener — a 3-0 loss to UMass-Lowell on Thursday night at Munn Ice Arena.

The Green and White only had 16 shots on goal, while the River Hawks ripped 30 shots on senior goaltender Jeff Lerg.

"We had no offense, I mean nothing," MSU head coach Rick Comley said. "We are going to struggle until we can get some offense and some energy."

UMass-Lowell (1-1-0 overall) was able to capitalize

on its power play chances, going 2-for-7 with the man advantage.

The Spartans (1-2-0) had six power plays, but were unable to get set up in the offensive zone during most of them.

Comley wasn't just unhappy with the lack of goals or power play chances, he was let down by the team's overall lack of effort.

"I'm disappointed with everything, really," he said. "There's not one area more than any other."

Lerg thought a week's worth of offensive practice would have benefited the young team.

"We worked on getting offensive chances and we only had 16 shots — that's disappointing," he said. "We have to tell (the freshmen) that you

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Jeff Lerg, senior goaltender

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The Spartans struggled to find their legs early, as the first period was littered with turnovers and passes gone astray.

The Spartans earned a power play two minutes into the game but were unable to gain entry into the UMass-Lowell zone for the power play's dura-

tion and spent more time chasing the cleared puck into their own end.

Then, seven minutes later, UMass-Lowell capitalized on an MSU turnover to take the lead. The River Hawks entered the offensive zone on a 3-on-1 and the puck was passed to forward Patrick Cey, who unleashed a wrist shot that beat Lerg over left shoulder.

The Spartans started the second period fast looking to turn it into their game, which culminated when junior defenseman Ryan Turek laid a heavy, open-ice hit on a UMass-Lowell forward at center ice.

The River Hawks shortly thereafter took the momentum back and kept it throughout the second period, firing 10 shots at Lerg — upping his total to 23 shots faced, but they were unable to beat the senior captain.

UMass-Lowell extended its lead to 2-0 four minutes into the third period on the power play. Lerg came out to cut the angle on a wrist shot from the top of right circle, but the puck missed the net and took a huge bounce off the boards.

UMass-Lowell's Scott Campbell was camped out in front

of the crease and after a teammate passed him the puck he just had to tap it into the wide-open net.

The hole grew deeper for the Spartans at 14:06 as they gave up another power play goal. Defenseman Maury Edwards received a pass at the top of the left circle and fired a slap shot over Lerg and into the top-shelf of the net.

The Spartans were unable to give themselves a chance to get on the board at the end of the game, as they committed four penalties in the last two minutes.

The Spartans will get another shot at the River Hawks at 7:05 p.m. tonight at Munn.

"We've got a long way to go and we have to come back and get better," Comley said. "We just need to keep playing."



Comley

