

Editors Note

This edition of "Axolotl Newsletter" represents the first issue of a Newsletter which we plan to publish two times per year, once in the fall, and once in the spring. It will be devoted to the dissemination of a wide variety of information concerning the use of axolotls as research animals. The Newsletter will be divided into several sections. Information collected by researchers, and research progress reports contributed by laboratories associated with the Indiana University Axolotl Colony, will be regularly included in the Newsletter. In addition, we would greatly appreciate contributions to the Newsletter from others. For each of the sections listed in the Table of Contents, a brief mention of proposed contributions for the next issue will be given. Readers should feel encouraged to submit copy which relates to the proposed topics, and copy which, although not necessarily relevant to the proposed theme of the issue, would be of general interest to the community of scientists which uses the Mexican axolotl. Contributions which relate to other species of amphibia are welcome.

The success of the Newsletter depends largely upon the efforts of the readers in regularly submitting contributions. Should questions arise concerning the nature of a contribution, please feel encouraged to contact the editors at 812-337-1131.

In order to stimulate the widespread use of the Newsletter by readers for the purpose of disseminating information, we would prefer that in formal publications references to articles in the Newsletter not be employed without the written permission of the author. The Newsletter should be regarded as a means of disseminating information which is important to scientists actively engaged in using axolotls as research material. The contributions should not necessarily be in a "conventional" form, and the documentation need not be complete.

The main driving force of science is the advancement of knowledge. In this spirit, the Newsletter will attempt to provide opportunities for colleagues to remain informed of one another's research progress, to publish information on methods, and to facilitate the initiation of correspondence between workers in related fields.

For this first issue, R.R. Humphrey has written a history of the Indiana University Axolotl Colony. It describes the origin of the colony, the accumulation of its stocks, and its transfer to Indiana University. R.R. Humphrey and A.J. Brothers maintain the large colony at Indiana.

Several faculty members of the Zoology Department, including R. Briggs, G.M. Malacinski, and J.H. Sinclair also participate in its operation.

George M. Malacinski