

UNIVERSITY OF Southampton

The University of Southampton is internationally renowned for research that addresses key questions in medicine and healthcare. Their efforts improve our understanding of complex diseases like cancer and generate valuable new findings that have impacted new drug formulations and resulted in better treatments for patients. The University of Southampton's commitment to excellence in biomedical sciences and clinical research has cemented its position as a world class research institution ranked in the top 100 worldwide for medicine.



Situation

The University of Southampton team sought to further strengthen its animal management processes as well as its management of the finance elements associated with them. This included comprehensive recording of animal care activities and characteristics from a Home Office point of view, and an efficient means of processing charge-throughs. Researchers also wanted more effective tracking functionality which the organization's internally developed system could not support.

Implementation

a-tune worked with the internal team to set up the organization's master data and populate all facility, compliance, and animal management data in the new system – **tick@lab**. **a-tune's** implementation team then provided training and advisement to support system adoption and proper use in accordance with best practices. This included working with small groups on elements such as how to manage breeding line information and supporting the group until each member was confident and comfortable in the new system.

Outcome

With **a-tune** and **tick@lab**, the organization evolved and improved its processes. This included, among other things, adopting new ways of capturing and processing charges for their work (e.g., moving from a "per hundred days" to "per day per cage" approach). The digitization of animal care and compliance information also alleviated instances of team members having to write information down. This reduces the risk of human error and enables team members to spend more time on high value activities. **tick@lab** also automated key elements of the Compliance reporting in accordance with Home Office requirements.



"a-tune and tick@lab have helped us streamline the way we work. Finance runs far more easily, and researchers especially appreciate the traceability that tick@lab enables across all activities."

*– Caroline Mercer,
Laboratory Manager,
University of Southampton*