



Founded in 1996, the Van Andel Institute (VAI) is realizing its vision "to improve human health" through its biomedical research initiatives aimed at finding breakthrough treatment strategies for cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, and metabolic issues. VAI is home to more than 400 scientists, educators and support staff – each one deeply connected to the work they do across the institute's research centers.

Situation

VAI needed a comprehensive solution to track and manage their animal use protocols, breeding colony information, and compliance data. This included being able to capture and create complete animal histories and genetics records as well as the ability to generate billing within the application. The software application then in place at VAI was incomplete, cumbersome, and not widely adopted by the organization's researchers and support staff.

Implementation

VAI's exploration of potential solutions found **tick@lab** from **a-tune** to be "the most comprehensive, most flexible product out there." In addition to **tick@lab's** core features and functionality, VAI also incorporated the solution's Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) and Institutional Review Board (IRB) modules to streamline communications and shorten review cycles. Dedicated **a-tune** experts guided VAI through all phases of Master Data set up, administrator and user training, and ongoing support.

Outcome

VAI staff reports that **tick@lab** has simplified and given them full confidence to take care of the tasks and processes they are responsible for. This includes counting animals against animal use protocols, generating recurring reports to satisfy regulatory requirements and demonstrate compliance, and ensuring animal populations are receiving proper care and attention. Having all of VAI's people, processes, and data reside in a single system has unlocked new efficiencies for the organization.



"With tick@lab, we're able to track our animals extensively – something we couldn't do before. The information tick@lab allows us to record and assess is virtually limitless."

**– Bryn Eagleson,
Vivarium Director,
Van Andel Research**