

# THE SSPAPER

## QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

### Happy Holidays!

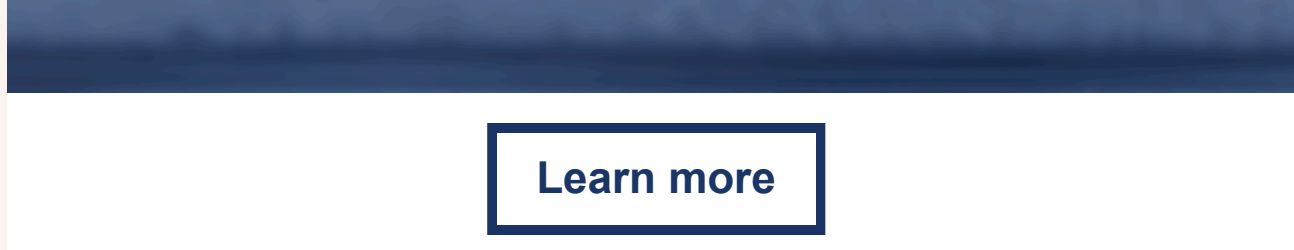
Don't miss your chance to win... scroll down and see how to enter.

Welcome back to the quarterly edition of the Shepherd Specialty Papers newsletter (SSPaper). In this issue, there is a chance to win a gift from Shepherd. We share important information about why Shepherd will end the sale of corncob bedding on December 31, 25. We break down what the data is showing, highlight one of our incredible employees, and share breakthroughs from top institutions with animals living on ALPHA dri®. You will also see where our team has been active in the research community along with upcoming events and more.

#### Table Of Contents

- 1- Whats Happening
- 2- Customer Feedback
- 3- Notable Findings
- 4- Enter To Win!
- 5- Employee Spotlight
- 6- Out and About
- 7- Upcoming Events
- 8- Industry Partners

**\*\*OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED ON 12/24 - 12/25 and 12/31 - 1/1\*\***



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

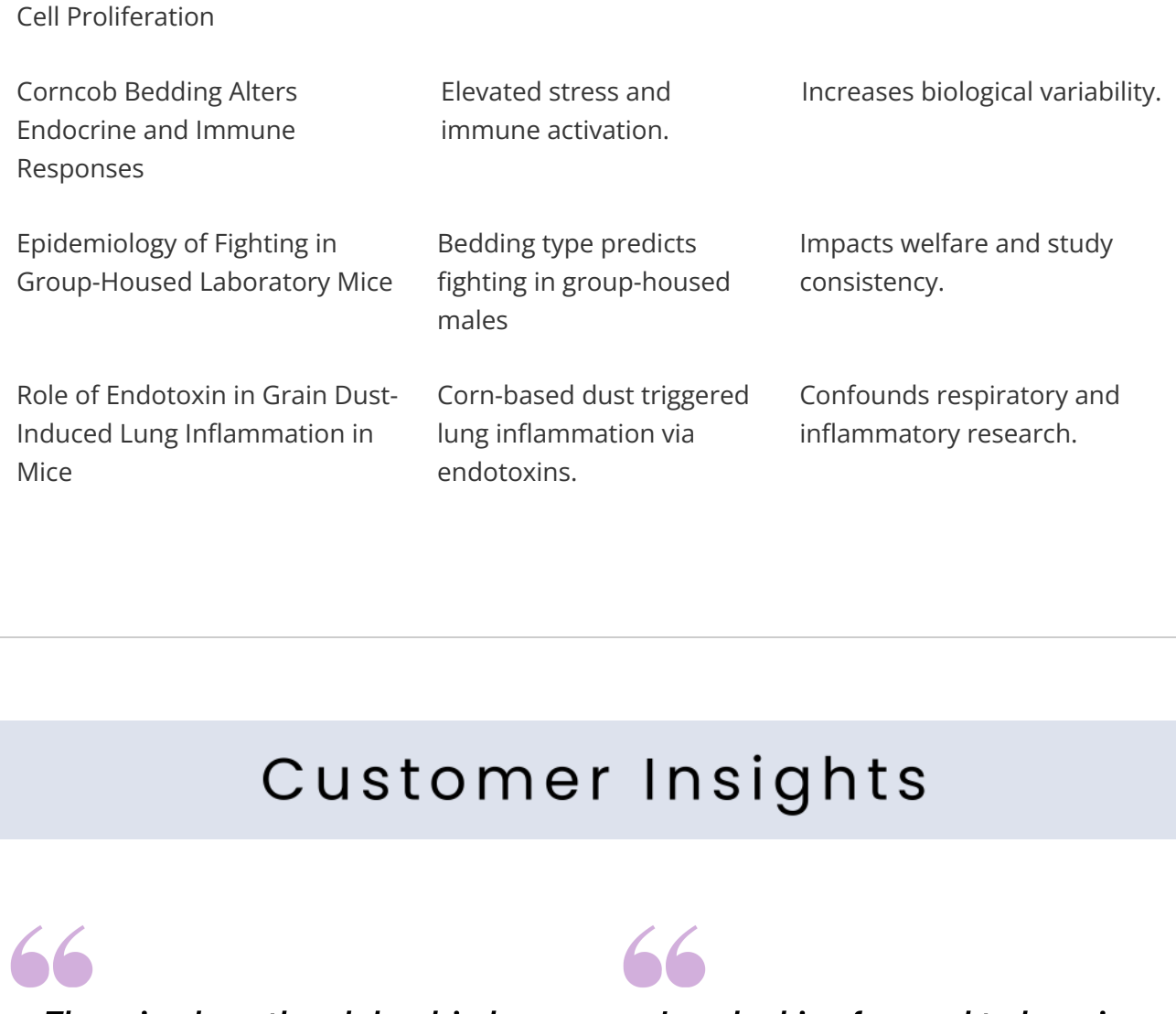
# CORNCOB ENDS. BETTER RESEARCH BEGINS.

[Learn more](#)

### What the data says

Recent data confirms that corncob bedding introduces variables that impact the physiology of mice.

Independent tests reveal higher levels of endotoxins in corncob (irradiated & non-irradiated) relative to virgin cellulose bedding.



### Evidence

| Study                                                                                                                               | Finding                                                     | Impact                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Bedding as a Variable Affecting Fasting Blood Glucose and Vascular Physiology in Mice                                               | Elevated glucose and impaired vascular function.            | Confounds metabolic and vascular studies.        |
| Rats Housed on Corncob Bedding Show Less Slow-Wave Sleep                                                                            | Reduced deep sleep and rest disruption.                     | Reduced deep sleep and rest disruption.          |
| Leukotoxin Diols from Ground Corncob Bedding Disrupt Estrous Cyclicity in Rats and Stimulate MCF-7 Breast Cancer Cell Proliferation | Disrupted reproductive cycles and stimulated tumor cells.   | Risks hormonal and cancer research validity.     |
| Corncob Bedding Alters Endocrine and Immune Responses                                                                               | Elevated stress and immune activation.                      | Increases biological variability.                |
| Epidemiology of Fighting in Group-Housed Laboratory Mice                                                                            | Bedding type predicts fighting in group-housed males        | Impacts welfare and study consistency.           |
| Role of Endotoxin in Grain Dust-Induced Lung Inflammation in Mice                                                                   | Corn-based dust triggered lung inflammation via endotoxins. | Confounds respiratory and inflammatory research. |

## Customer Insights

“  
**The mice love the alpha dri plus and enviro dri! We have no plans to change!**  
”

“  
**I am looking forward to learning more about the switch from corncob to alpha dri.**  
”

“  
**I like that corncob is being discontinued due to reasons that will help with research!**  
”

“  
**Switching to alpha dri+ and love it**  
”

“  
**I love how alpha dri doesn't affect breeding**  
”

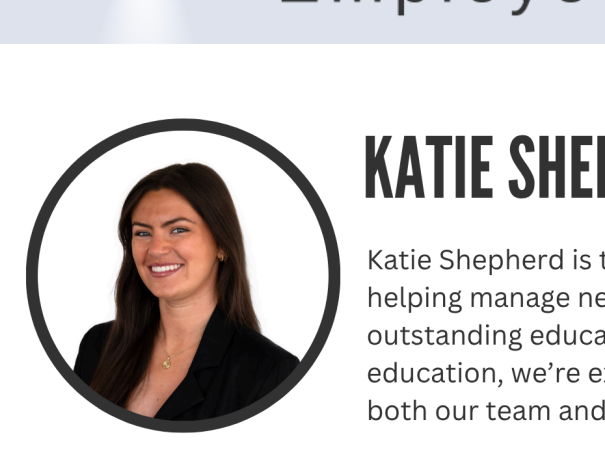
“  
**I enjoy the variety of non-phytoestrogen bedding products!**  
”

## Notable Findings

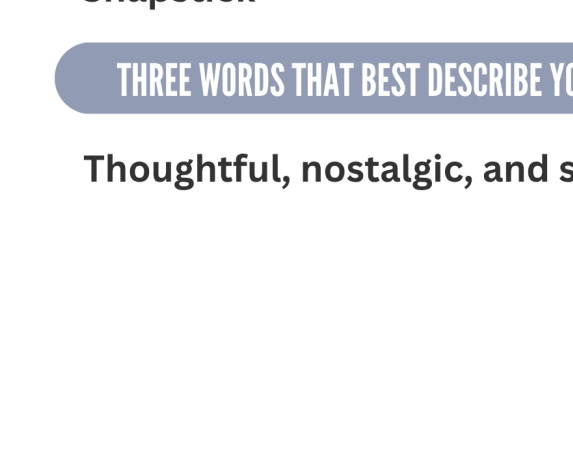
ALPHA-dri® appears frequently in experiments where a clean, low dust, consistent paper pulp bedding is important, for example in metabolic, intestinal, environmental monitoring, and thermoregulatory research.

### Presented at AALAS 2025

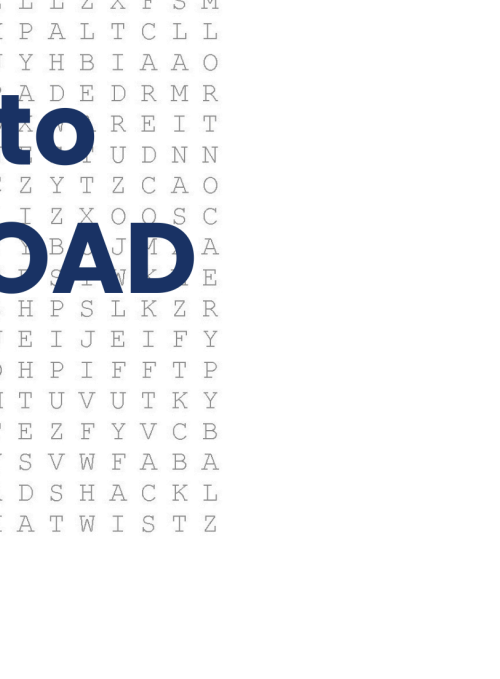
**Corncob Bedding Negatively Impacts Breeding Performance and Sexual Development in Mice**



**Research Mice On ALPHA-dri®**  
Parabrachial *Foxp2*-expressing neurons are necessary for sustaining core body temperature in the cold  
[read more](#)



**Research Mice On ALPHA-dri®**  
UCSF researchers discover molecular timer that regulates pregnancy length  
[read more](#)



Assessment of hepatitis C virus permissiveness in iteratively genetically humanized mice (on ALPHA-dri®)  
[read more](#)

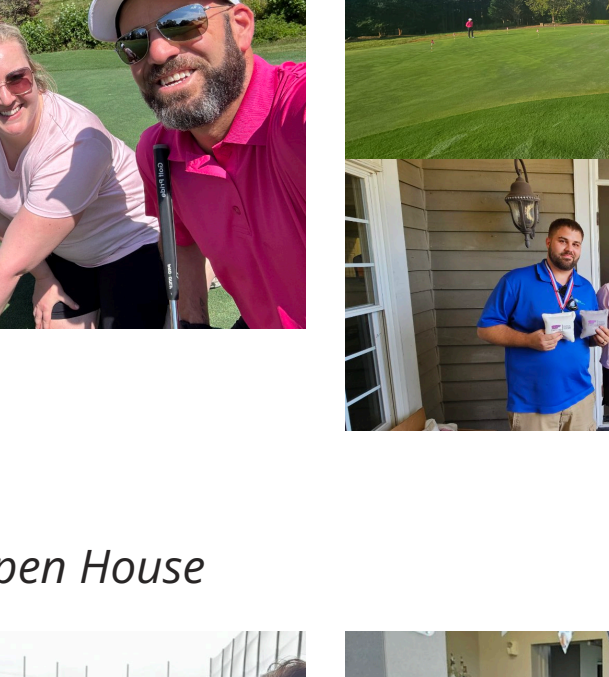


**Research Mice On ALPHA-dri®**  
Test USC-led study finds potential new drug target for Alzheimer's disease  
[read more](#)

## Enter To Win!

Download the word search below, find the words, then email an image of your completed word search to be entered into our giveaway!

Please send your email to [stobey@ssponline.com](mailto:stobey@ssponline.com)



## Employee Spotlight



### KATIE SHEPHERD- ACCOUNT MANAGER

Katie Shepherd is the newest member of our team, Katie will be helping manage new and existing customer accounts while ensuring outstanding education and support. With her experience and education, we're excited by the positive impact she will make on both our team and the company!

WHAT FICTIONAL CHARACTER WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE?

Santa Claus

WHAT IS YOUR GO TO KARAOKE SONG?

“Style” by Taylor Swift

IF YOU COULD EAT ONE TYPE OF CUISINE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WHAT WOULD IT BE?

Mexican

WHAT IS ONE ITEM YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT ON A DESERTED ISLAND?

Chapstick

THREE WORDS THAT BEST DESCRIBE YOU:

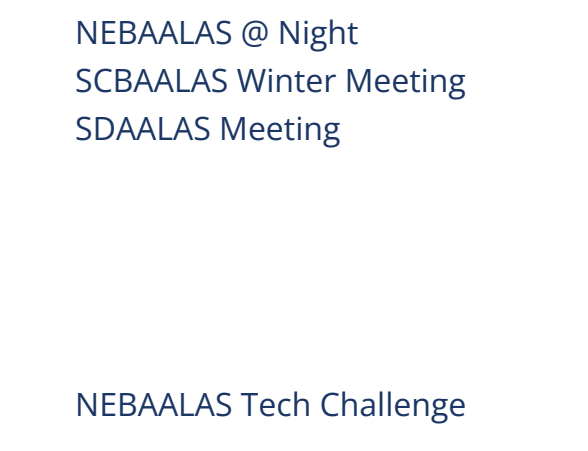
Thoughtful, nostalgic, and sarcastic

[Kshepherd@ssponline.com](mailto:Kshepherd@ssponline.com)

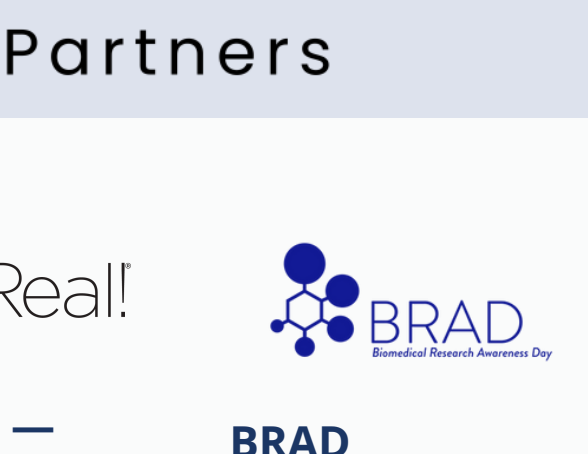
## Shepherd On The Road

### Out & About With Our Peeps!

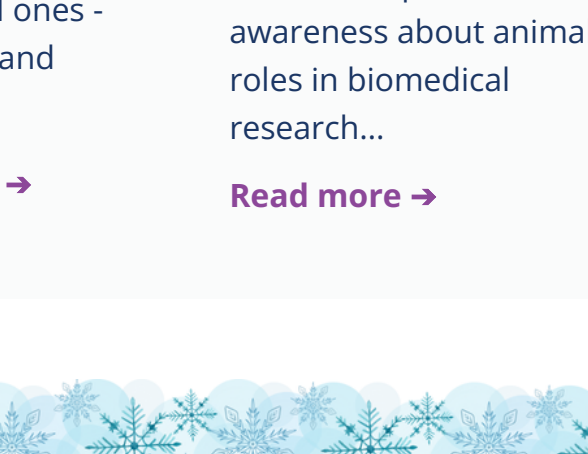
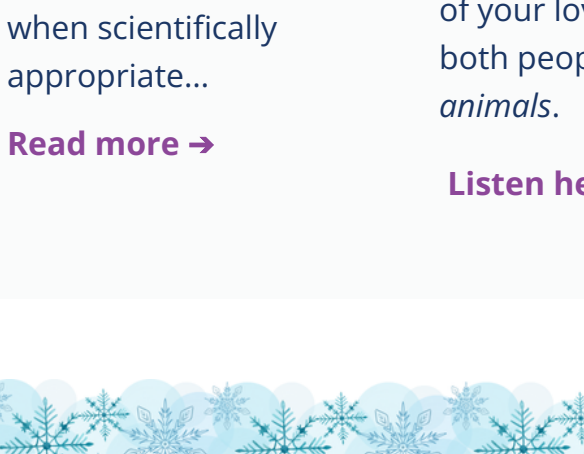
#### Wake Forest Symposium



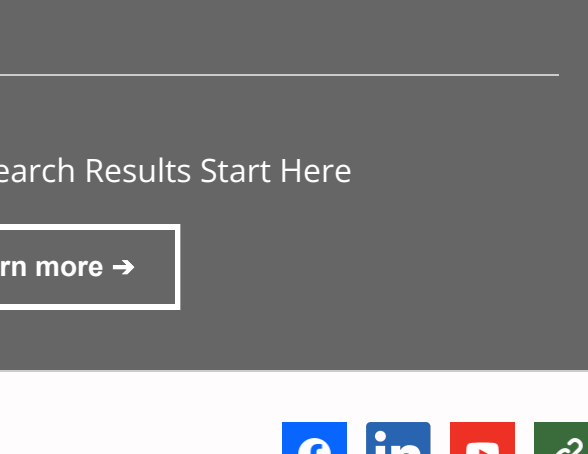
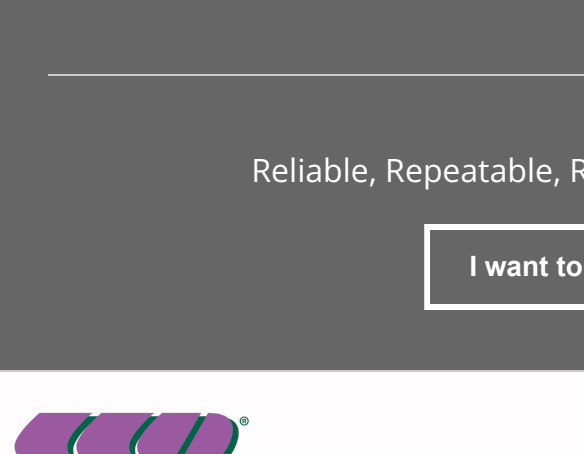
#### RTB Golf/Cornhole Tournament



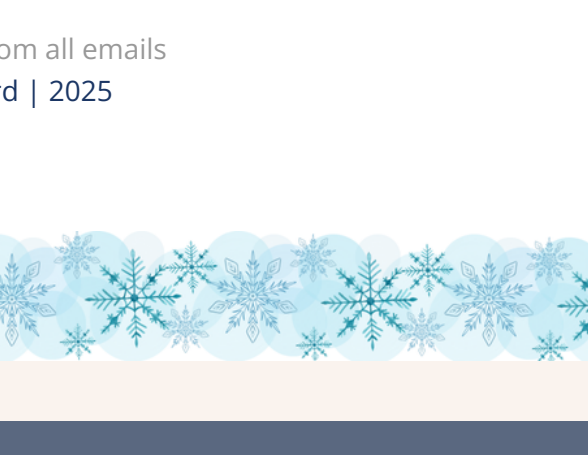
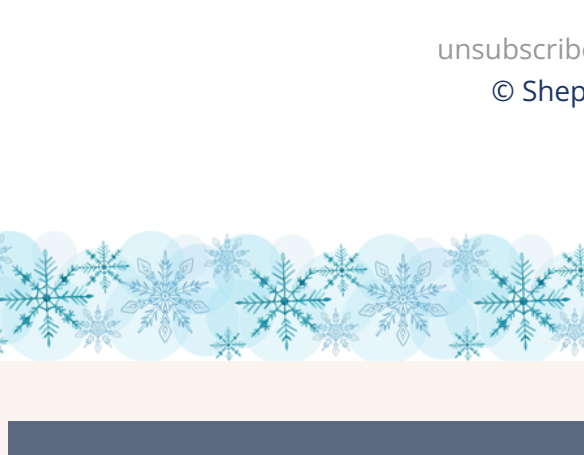
#### Lab Supply Open House



#### NCAB



### National AALAS Meeting Long Beach, CA



## Upcoming Events

### December

NEBAALAS @ Night  
SCBAALAS Winter Meeting  
SDAALAS Meeting

### January

NEBAALAS Tech Challenge

## Industry Partners

**NA3RsC**  
The National Association 3 R's Collaborative aims to improve animals lives, reduce their numbers while maintaining robust results, and replace them when scientifically appropriate...  
[Read more →](#)

**Episodes — GetReal!**  
*GetReal!* lays out the facts so you have the power to make informed decisions about the future health of your loved ones - both people and animals.  
[Listen here →](#)

**BRAD**  
Biomedical Research Awareness Day (BRAD) is an international outreach program through AMP that seeks to increase public awareness about animal roles in biomedical research...  
[Read more →](#)

## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

Reliable, Repeatable, Research Results Start Here

[I want to learn more →](#)

132 Front St.  
SUITE 305,  
Scituate, MA 02066

[Contact Us](#)

unsubscribe from all emails  
© Shepherd | 2025

