E. W. Pfeiffer reports that Aplodontia rufa is still a research animal at Montana State University

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Aplodontia rufa, the little mountain beaver, is still doing yeoman work as a research animal at Montana State University, it was indicated by Dr. E. W. Pfeiffer, MSU zoologist, who reported this week that the U. S. Army Medical and Research Development Command has granted the University $3,322 for further investigation of the animal's kidney function.

This is a continuation of studies on A. rufa made possible by grants from the Montana Heart Association and the Western Montana Clinic Foundation, Pfeiffer said. The new investigation will concentrate on the effects of various diets on water conservation abilities of the mountain beaver and rabbits. Along the line, MSU scientists hope to find out the relative importance of kidney anatomy and diet and possible clues that may lead to management of kidney problems in human beings.

The actual research work will be conducted by Ed House, an MSU graduate student, working under the direction of Dr. Pfeiffer and Dr. Harold Braun, Missoula physician serving as research associate on the project.

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