IACUC Update
April 2013
Newsletter of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

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AAALAC Triennial Site Visit Fall 2013

The Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC), International will be conducting their triennial review of the UC Davis Animal Care Program this Fall. The site visit team will be visiting all of our animal facilities, a random sampling of investigator laboratories with a focus on surgery areas, and meeting with key representatives from our animal care program. Maintaining our AAALAC accreditation is critical for our program and requires teamwork among researchers and their staff, the animal care staff, Facilities Management, the IACUC, the Attending Veterinarian, Campus Veterinary Services (CVS), and campus administration.

What can you do to prepare?

1) Ensure that all work with live, vertebrate animals is being conducted as described in the IACUC approved protocol. Amendments to modify the protocol can be submitted online.
2) Ensure all members working on the protocol are properly trained and that the training is documented. Training responsibilities and template are available on the IACUC Website.
3) Review the Laboratory Inspection preparation guide which outlines the campus requirements for those working with animals and helps laboratories prepare for audits.
4) Update your protocol staff roster making sure each person working with animals is listed on the protocol.
5) Ensure the laboratory working area for animals is clean and organized. Positive first impressions can go a long way.
6) Review contents in cabinets and drawers and discard any expired items (i.e., drugs, medical materials, feed)

Required Course for Rodent Surgeons

Rodent surgeons are now required to take the IACUC’s online Rodent Surgery Course. This online course takes about 20 minutes to complete and can be found at:
http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/tr/animalCareAndUseTraining

This course is intended be an introduction/refresher on aseptic technique and the UC Davis IACUC policy on rodent survival surgery. It does not replace the formal hands on training that is needed in the laboratory to ensure proficiency.
Recent Policy Updates

In response to the release of the new Guide the IACUC has been reviewing and updating (as needed) all of campus polices relating to animal research. The following policies were recently updated, reviewed, and approved by the IACUC. The IACUC polices are available online at:

http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/ps/a/IACUC/po/Master

1) **Survival Surgery Guidelines for Rodents**: Covers appropriate surgical locations, surgeon and animal preparation, peri- and post-operative monitoring and record keeping, and post-operative analgesics, required for conducting survival surgery on rodents. All rodent surgeons must take the IACUC online Rodent Surgery Course.

2) **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when Working with Animals**: Working with rodents requires at minimum a laboratory coat and disposable gloves. Working with other small mammals requires the use of a lab coat or other dedicated long sleeve protective clothing (i.e., scrubs, uniform). Nondisposable laboratory coats should be laundered onsite or by a commercial service and not taken home.

3) **Rationale for Numbers and Species in Protocols**: The animals selected for a project should be of an appropriate species and quality with the minimum number required to obtain valid results. The IACUC recognizes that the basis for an appropriate justification of animal numbers depends largely on the nature of the study. When possible, animal numbers should be determined by a power analysis.

4) **Collecting Tissue for Genotyping and Identifying Purpose Bred Mice and Rats**: The IACUC must approve all methods for tissue collection prior to performing on animals. Tail clipping, ear punching, and toe clipping are acceptable methods of tissue collection for genotyping rodents. However, toe clipping, as a method of identification of small rodents, must be used only when no other individual identification method is feasible.

World Week for Animals in Laboratories

World Week for Animals in Laboratories is this week, April 20th-28th. While security is a MUST at all times, this week requires extra vigilance and thought about both work and personal safety and proactive readiness.

If you notice any suspicious activities please notify the UC Davis Police Department immediately at 530-752-1230 or 911 in an emergency.

As a reminder the UC Davis Police Department created two safety resources for researchers and staff, [Home Safety Tips for Research Personnel](http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/ps/a/IACUC/quicklinks/additionalSites_Resources) and [Research Protection Strategies](http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/ps/a/IACUC/quicklinks/additionalSites_Resources). These are available online at: