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

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AAALAC Site Visit October 14th-18th 2013
The date for our AAALAC site visit has been selected and the site visit team will be here October 14th-18th. 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.

What can you do to prepare?

1) Ensure your protocol is up-to-date and covers all procedures being performed and lists all staff working on the protocol. Amendments to modify the protocol can be submitted using the online system.

2) Review the Laboratory Inspection Preparation Guide which outlines the campus requirements for those working with animals and helps laboratories prepare for audits.

3) Ensure that staff members are well-trained on all procedures they are performing and are familiar with the approved IACUC protocol. Training must be documented and training records readily accessible.

Please visit http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/ps/a/IACUC/aaalac-site-visit-fall-2013 for more information about the AAALAC site visit and additional things you can do to prepare for the visit.

New Policy on Social Housing
The 8th Edition of the ILAR Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals states “Appropriate social interactions among members of the same species (con specifics) are essential to normal development and wellbeing (Bayne et al. 1995; Hall 1998; Novak et al. 2006)…. Single housing of social species should be the exception and justified based on experimental requirements or veterinary-related concerns about animal well-being.”

The IACUC has approved a policy based on the ILAR Guide as well as the position statements from AAALAC and NIH/OLAW regarding social housing. The IACUC policy states “Social housing will be considered the default method of housing for social animals. Single housing for experimental reasons must be described and justified in the IACUC protocol and approved by the IACUC.”

The IACUC has historically asked for justification in the protocol to singly house rodents and nonhuman primates and this will now be required for all social species when the request is due to experimental reasons. Single housing for veterinary reasons or social incompatibility will be documented at the facility level.
Recent Policy Updates

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

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

1) **The Use of Prolonged Physical Restraint in Non-Sedated Animals:**

   Protocols that involve prolonged restraint must include a description of the restraint device, scientific justification, estimated duration of use, and the monitoring procedures and methods used to minimize/eliminate distress (e.g. acclimation to the device, positive reinforcement).

2) **Use of Non-Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds in Animals:** It is the IACUC’s policy that non-pharmaceuticals grade compounds cannot be used in research or teaching animals unless the following three criteria are met:

   1. Scientific necessity;
   2. The compound is not available as veterinary-grade or pharmaceutical-grade and there are no suitable alternatives;
   3. The use is described in the animal care protocol and is approved by the IACUC.

3) **Transportation of Rodents to and from Research Laboratories:** Describes the process for properly transporting rodents from the animal facility to the laboratory. In general rodents should be transported in filter top cages in order to restrict exposure to allergens, transported in a climate-controlled vehicle without extra stops, and cages must be covered with a clean breathable fabric (e.g. lab coat) or paper covering.

4) **Training Requirements for Personnel Working with Animals:** In addition to the ACU 101, individuals working with animals must receive training relevant to the species and procedures they are working with and this training must be documented. This policy covers the training requirements and outlines training resources that are available on campus. Individuals conducting survival surgery in rodents need to take the IACUC Rodent Surgery Course.

New Occupational Health Surveillance System Online

The system for submitting the online Risk Assessment (RA) and Medical Heath Questionnaire (HQ) forms has been updated. The new system, http://ohss.uctechnology.ucdavis.edu is now available for use and will officially replace the legacy system on August 19th. The new system will now obtain employee information directly from the campus database eliminating the data entry errors encountered with the previous system. It also allows supervisors/PI’s to use previous RAs as a template for employees with similar risks. Participants and Supervisors will be able to log in to the system to track the progress of the submitted forms.

The new process requires that a medical professional within Occupational Health review and sign off on the RA and HQ before an individual will be able to be added to an IACUC protocol. In some cases consultation with a medical professional or medical services (i.e. TB test) will be required prior to clearing an individual for animal work. This may take a few days longer than the current system but will ensure that the review has taken place prior to approving an individual for work.

If it has been a while since you last submitted your forms and your risks (species, biohazards, etc.) or health status has changed, we would encourage you to submit updated forms using the new system.

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