AAALAC Site visit Fall 2010

The Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC) will be conducting its triennial review of the UC Davis Animal Care and Use Program this fall. The actual week of the site visit is not yet known. AAALAC is a private, nonprofit organization that promotes the humane treatment of animals in science through voluntary accreditation and assessment programs. Maintaining our AAALAC accreditation is important to demonstrate that we maintain a high quality Animal Care and Use Program. AAALAC accreditation is also required by many granting agencies as well as UCOP.

Maintaining our AAALAC accreditation is a team effort including researchers and their staff, the animal care staff, Facilities Management, the IACUC, the Attending Veterinarian and Veterinary Services, and campus administration.

What can you do to prepare for this site visit?

- Make sure that your staff members are well trained on the techniques that they are performing with live animals and that this training is documented. Review the training responsibilities policy at http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/iacuc/policies/training-responsibilities
- Make sure that the work that is being conducted by your lab is consistent with the IACUC approved protocol. Amendments can be submitted at http://iacuc.ucdavis.edu/protocol/index.cfm and must be approved prior to making a change.
- Be familiar and compliant with the IACUC policies at http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/iacuc/policies/policies-guidelines

We will continue to send out updates as we get closer to the site visit. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the IACUC Office at iacuc-staff@ucdavis.edu or (530) 752-2364.

Rodent survival surgery- Aseptic Technique

While dedicated facilities are not required for rodent survival surgery, aseptic technique is required by Federal Guidelines. General requirements stated on pages 60-65 of the ILAR Guide (NRC Publication 86-23, revised 1996) include the use of sterile instruments, sterile surgical gloves, clean surgical attire, and aseptic technique. The UC Davis IACUC policy on conducting rodent survival surgery can be found at http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/iacuc/policies/policies-guidelines.

Some important things to remember when conducting rodent surgery:

- Wear the proper PPE, including clean lab coats or scrubs, sterile gloves, and a surgical mask.
- Sterilize the surgical instruments by autoclaving or use of a chemical sterilant such as glutaraldehyde. Alcohol is not considered a sterilant.
- Follow anesthetic and analgesic regimes described in the protocol.
- Pre, peri, and post op records must be maintained according to: http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/Campus-Veterinarian/AnesthRecordSimple1.pdf
UC Davis IACUC Policy updates

Over the past 6 months the IACUC has updated several policies and written one new policy.

**New Policy:** IACUC-53 Use of Non Pharmaceutical Grade Compounds in Animals. This policy covers the guidance that was put out by the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) and USDA. It is expected that pharmaceutical grade compounds are used in animal research except when the following three criteria are met:

1. Scientific necessity;
2. Non-availability of an acceptable veterinary or human pharmaceutical-grade compound; and
3. The use is described in the animal care protocol and is approved by the IACUC.

**Updated Policies:**

1) IACUC-7 “Protocol review process” was updated to include the revised process for online protocols.

2) IACUC-41 “Laboratory Inspection program” was revised to include terminal surgery locations in the semi-annual inspection period.

3) IACUC-19 “Laboratory Housing” was expanded to include additional SOP requirements for PI’s who have received IACUC approval to temporarily hold animals in their laboratory for >12 hours. Animals cannot be held in laboratories unless it has been approved by the IACUC.

**Temporary Affiliates**

Many of our new applications such as the protocol system and training registration have moved online which requires users to have a UC Davis login and password to access the material. This is not a problem for faculty, staff, and students, however has been problematic for our visiting researchers and volunteers. The solution to this problem is to sign up visiting researchers as temporary affiliates. By registering for temporary access, the affiliate will have access to our network, a ucdavis.edu email address, and a unique username and password which will be used to verify identity and enable subsequent access privileges to various parts of our network. The online temporary affiliate form is a service provided by Information and Educational Technology (IET). To register a visitor as a temporary affiliate visit https://confluence.ucdavis.edu/confluence/display/TAF/Home. Visiting researchers who will be working with animals will need to be registered as a temporary affiliate in order to be added to the animal protocol’s staff roster. Addition on non-UC Davis personnel to the protocol should be submitted to the IACUC as an amendment request.

**AALAS Learning Library- Online training for laboratory animal users**

UC Davis has a membership with the American Association for Laboratory Animal Science (AALAS) which gives UC Davis employee’s free access to the AALAS Learning Library. There are a large number of courses offered through this program including mouse biomethodology courses, aseptic technique, inhalation anesthesia, animal husbandry, etc. There are also courses for anyone interested in becoming AALAS certified which is highly recommended for anyone pursuing a career in the field of Laboratory Animal Science.