

UC Davis Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee July 2007 Newsletter



Updated IACUC Policies

The IACUC routinely reviews and revises their policies and procedures. If you have not recently visited the Committee Policies and Guidelines section on the IACUC webpages, the entire list of policies and guidelines can be reviewed at:

<http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/iacuc/policies/policies-guidelines>

IACUC policies and guidelines that have been updated this last year include:

- IACUC-05 “IACUC Charge”
- IACUC-08 “Animal Care and Use Protocol Renewals”
- IACUC-11 “Protocol Suspension”
- IACUC-14 “Reports of Animal Care and Use Concerns”
- IACUC-24 “Use of Davis Animal Facilities by Faculty of Other Institutions”
- IACUC-31 “Blood Volumes, Maximum Blood Draws, and Blood Collection Sites in Small Mammals, Birds and Fish”
- IACUC-37 “Euthanasia for Mice and Rats”

In the very near future, revisions to the IACUC policies and guidelines that address the Principal Investigator and staff training requirements and the use of radios in the vivarium will be updated on the web.

When reviewing policies on line, all new or revised policies can be identified by a distinct policy number and approval date in the upper right hand corner of the policy.

AAALAC Expected in October

We are expecting the next site visit at UC Davis will be in October or November. Preparations for our upcoming site visit have begun, and we encourage all faculty, staff and students to maintain the high level of participation, awareness, compliance, and professionalism typical of our program. Areas of particular focus for principal investigators are:

- Our culture of safety. This includes attention to safety procedures and proper protective clothing.
- Ensuring that animal care and use protocols are accurate and up-to-date.
- Ensuring the provision of adequate training for all individuals who use or care for animals (see SafetyNet #116, “Principal Investigator’s Training Responsibilities For Animal Care and Use.”)

During the next several months, the IACUC will be providing the campus community with updated materials in preparation for our AAALAC site visit. If you have any questions or suggestions, contact the IACUC Office at (530) 752-2364 or e-mail at iacuc-staff@ucdavis.edu.

PHS Assurance Approved

It is the Policy of the Public Health Service (PHS) to require institutions to establish and maintain proper measures to ensure the appropriate care and use of all animals involved in research, research training, and biological testing activities conducted or supported by the PHS.

No activity involving animals may be conducted or supported by the PHS until the institution conducting the activity has provided a written Assurance acceptable to the PHS, setting forth compliance with the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Assurances are submitted to the Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW), Office of the Director, National Institutes of Health.

The UC Davis, PHS Assurance was reviewed and approved on March 31, 2007, and will remain in effect until March 31, 2011.

Rationale for Numbers and Species

One of the IACUC's charges under the Animal Welfare Act is to review the investigator's rationale for the number of animals and species of animals selected.

Investigators must show that they are using the smallest number of animals compatible with their scientific goals, and that the animal species they have chosen is the most appropriate for their study.

Since the numbers necessary are in part defined by the experimental/statistical design chosen, a justification of the basis of this design should be included. It is the obligation of the investigator to use the fewest number of animals possible; the justification should thoroughly explain how this has been accomplished.

Streamline Your Protocol Writing!

When submitting a new protocol, did you know that the IACUC will often accept a statement that the research staff will follow an IACUC approved policy/guideline, with the policy/guideline title referenced, in lieu of stating each detail of the policy/guideline? This may be particularly helpful when referring to such procedures as small animal blood collection, euthanasia, genotyping and humane endpoints.

For example, a researcher conducting mouse studies in which tumors will be generated may reference the IACUC approved "Humane Endpoints" guidelines (IACUC-28) under the "adverse effects" section of the protocol, instead of itemizing each of the criteria that would warrant euthanasia.

In another situation, in which transgenic animals are bred, the researcher may state in the "summary of procedures" section of the protocol that the IACUC approved rodent genotyping guidelines (IACUC-32 "Collecting Tissue for Genotyping and Identifying Purpose Bred Mice and Rats") will be followed, as opposed to specifying each step of the genotyping process.



Specific-Species Handling Classes

The Office of the Attending Veterinarian offers several species-specific handling classes that cover the husbandry, animal care techniques, handling, and commonly used laboratory techniques. Classes currently offered are for:

- Birds
- Cats
- Cattle
- Dogs
- Ferrets
- Gerbils
- Guinea Pigs
- Hamsters
- Mice
- Rabbits
- Rats
- Swine

Class sign-ups are on-line at:

<http://safetyservices.ucdavis.edu/iacuc/training/classes-safetynets-videos#training>

IACUC On-Line

The IACUC has approved and initiated an on-line update and exam as an option for the three-year re-training requirement.

The short, 15-question update and exam is provided to the campus community to improve communications and increase awareness of important issues and program requirements. Links to an individual's update and exam are provided in e-mail notices. The notices are sent 90, 60, and 30 days prior to the individual's three year training anniversary.

Starting July 23, 2007, the IACUC will be beta-testing an on-line campus interface that includes an interactive protocol form, amendment requests, and variety of reports for the faculty and staff.