The University of Texas at Austin  
Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
Laboratory Self-Evaluation Checklist

Semi-annually (twice a year, usually in April and October), the IACUC conducts facility evaluations of all areas where animals are housed or used for experiments. The “Laboratory Self-Evaluation Checklist” is a tool to help laboratories prepare for semi-annual evaluations.

The checklist covers the major topics of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8th Edition) (the Guide) and the requirements of the PHS Policy. The checklist does not replace the Guide, but you should use it along with the Guide. The Guide provides the standards, recommendations, and descriptions of desired outcomes necessary to evaluate and evaluate an animal care and use program. Relevant pages in the Guide and sections in the PHS Policy are referenced.

Please contact the Office of Research Support with any questions, comments, or concerns.
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### Special Facilities

- **Procedure Areas**
- **Non-Survival Surgeries**
- **Laboratories**
- **Rodent Surgeries**
- **Whole Body Irradiation**
- **Hazardous Agent Containment**
- **Behavioral Studies**

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#### General Considerations:
- Labs used to house animals only when scientifically required and limited to minimum period necessary (Guide, p 134)
- Drug storage, control, and expiration dates (Guide, pp 115, 122)
- Sharps disposal (Guide, p 74)
- Anesthetic monitoring (Guide, p 120)
- Scavenging of anesthetic gases (Guide, p 21)
- Safety features (e.g., SOPs, safety signs, eyewash stations, secure gas cylinders) are in place (Guide, p 19)
- Carcass disposal (Guide, pp 73-74)

#### Additional Concerns for Survival Surgery: (rodent and minor procedures only)
- Rodent survival surgery clean and uncluttered, not used for anything else during surgery (Guide, p 144)
- Records of peri-operative care (Guide, p 120)
- Aseptic procedures (Guide, pp 118-119)
- Autoclave monitoring procedures (Guide, pp 119, 145)
- Storage of autoclaved materials (Guide, p 145)
- Cold sterilization procedures are appropriate (Guide, p 119)

#### Imaging/Whole Body Irradiation:
- Location of resource limits contamination risk (Guide, p 147)
- Appropriate transportation methods are in place (Guide, p 147)
- Gas anesthesia provision, scavenging and monitoring are appropriate (Guide, p 147)
- Appropriate sensors and ventilation are provided for cryogen gases (Guide, p 147)
- Imaging console is located away from radiation source (Guide, p 147)

#### Hazardous Agent Containment:
- Facility adheres to APHIS, USDA and CDC Select Agent Regulations and other federal, state and local regulations including security measures (Guide, p 148)
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**Behavioral Studies:**
- Facility minimizes airborne transmission of noise and ground-borne transmission of vibration *(Guide, p 149)*
- Floor coverings reduce sound transmission *(Guide, p 149)*
- Testing equipment allows for surface disinfection *(Guide, p 150)*
- Components that cannot be cleaned are not in ready contact with animals and kept covered when not in use *(Guide, p 150)*
- Housing areas are contiguous with testing areas when appropriate *(Guide, p 150)*

**NOTES:**

A - Acceptable
M - Minor Deficiency
S - Significant Deficiency (is or may be a threat to animal health or safety)
C - Change in Program
NA - Not Applicable