

A Brief History of the Animal Welfare Act

The Animal Welfare Act (AWA) was first passed in 1966 to prevent pets from being stolen and sold to research laboratories, and to improve the treatment and well-being of animals intended for research. Congress has since amended the AWA five times to expand coverage to more animals and activities, strengthen its provisions, and curtail animal fighting, among other things.

The AWA applies to any live or dead dog, cat, non-human primate, guinea pig, hamster, rabbit, or other warm-blooded animal to be used for research or exhibition, excluding birds, rats and mice bred for research, and some farm animals.

Our IACUC works under the AWA regulations. We cooperate with researchers, veterinary staff, and our regulating and accrediting agencies to help ensure the humane care and use of vertebrate animals at The University of Texas at Austin.

Reference: CRS Report for Congress: "The Animal Welfare Act: Background and Selected Legislation" by G.S. Becker. 1/3/07.

Semi-Annual Inspections: Coming Soon

The time has come for the IACUC to conduct the required semi-annual inspections of all the University's animal facilities. These inspections will occur from **November 3 - 17, 2008**. This process involves an examination of all areas where animals are used and housed for experiments.

An inspection schedule is attached.

A "Laboratory Self-Evaluation Checklist" is attached and should be used to facilitate your preparation.

Common Deficiencies Identified During Semi-Annual Inspections

- **Improper feed storage.** Store opened bags of food items in a closed container to prevent contamination or spoilage. Ensure that container is labeled with mill dates or expiration dates. Unless there is information from the manufacturer to support a longer use life, food items should be discarded within six months of when they are first opened.
- **Inadequate record keeping.** Records should be complete, legible and accessible. Keep records for procedures, surgery, intra-operative, post-operative and post-procedural monitoring and care.
- **Overcrowded cages.** Do not house animals in cages too crowded or too small for occupant(s).
- **Clutter.** Maintain animal use areas neat and free of clutter.

Tip of the Month

Do you have experiments that contain similar techniques, use the same species, use most of the same people and only differ in the treatments or locations? Are they planned to run more or less simultaneously or consecutively? Combine them into a single protocol. When combining protocols, however, be careful to maintain the distinctions between each experiment. For hints, help or guidance, contact the Office of Research Support!

The next IACUC Full-Committee Review (FCR) is **November 10, 2008**.

The deadline to submit materials for review is **October 29, 2008**.



OFFICE OF RESEARCH SUPPORT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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TO: All Principal Investigators and Laboratory Personnel

FROM: Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

DATE: October 14, 2008

RE: Notice of Semi-Annual Animal Facilities Inspection

The Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) will conduct the semi-annual inspection of the Institution's animal facilities from **November 3-17, 2008**. This process involves an examination of all areas where animals are used and housed for experiments. Attached is the "Laboratory Self-Evaluation Checklist" which is a list of specific criteria that will be used by inspectors and should be used to facilitate your preparation.

Please post the name(s) and best contact method (e.g., lab phone, cell phone, etc.) of a knowledgeable person that will be present and able to answer questions during the inspections.

November 2008 Semi-Annual Inspection Schedule

(dates and times subject to change)

Monday, November 3, 2008

10:00 AM – Noon
ARC Annex, SW7, vehicle(s)

Monday, November 3, 2008

2:00 – 4:00 PM
PHR, ENS, WEL, BIO

Tuesday, November 4, 2008

2:00 – 4:00 PM
PAT Basement, Floor 1, 2, 3

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

10:00 AM – Noon
ARC Floor 1, SEA, MBB, NMS

Wednesday, November 5, 2008

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
PAT Floor 4, 5, 6, Roof

Thursday, November 6, 2008

10:00 AM – Noon
ARC Floor 2, ARC Floor 3

Friday, November 7, 2008

12:00 – 2:00 PM
Marine Science Institute (MSI)

Tuesday, November 11, 2008

2:45 – 4:15 PM
Brackenridge Field Laboratories

Thursday, November 13, 2008

2:30 – 3:30 PM
Pickle Research Campus

Monday, November 17, 2008

10:00 AM – Noon
BEL, BME, CPE, PAI

Do not hesitate to contact the Office of Research Support if you have any questions or need any additional information. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

e-mail: IACUC@austin.utexas.edu
phone: 512.475.8650

web: <http://www.utexas.edu/iacuc>
fax: 512.471.8873

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

Available Resources / References

- Emergency, weekend, and holiday contact information posted
- Copy of approved IACUC protocol and subsequent approved modifications readily available
- Lab personnel are listed on, knowledgeable of, and follow approved IACUC protocol
- Lab personnel are aware of animal use training resources

Occupational Health

- Hazard warning signs posted when indicated
- Anesthetic gas delivered and scavenged by appropriate methods
- Sharps disposal
- Lab personnel aware of Laboratory Animal Occupational Health Program (LAOHP) and have enrolled

Cleanliness / Safety

- Adequate sanitation/cleanliness of lab & surfaces
- Security measures/controlled access in place
- Proper maintenance of equipment (hoods, vaporizers)
- Gas cylinders secured

Storage

- Hazardous materials, waste material properly contained and labeled
- Carcasses disposed of properly
- Separate areas for human food/drink
- Surgical supplies marked as sterilized/non-sterilized and segregated
- Feed stored in closed container that prevents potential contamination/spoilage; labeled with milling/expiration date
- No cardboard storage on floor in housing or procedure areas

Drugs

- Locked storage for drugs that are controlled substances
- Proper log sheets available and up-to-date
- Procedure in place for identifying, segregating, and disposing of expired drugs and medical supplies

Animal Housing

- Cage/enclosure appropriate to species
- Materials used for animal enclosures and housing room construction are in good condition, with no rust or peeling paint. If wood is used, it should be sealed to provide an impermeable surface that can be easily sanitized.
- If unsealed wooden items are used to enrich the animals' environment as a substrate or structure, they should be replaced when grossly soiled or showing signs of significant deterioration.
- Cage cards are present and have protocol number
- Adequate cleanliness/sanitation (bedding, water)
- Food and water ad libitum unless a written plan and schedule is in place
- Environment is appropriate for species (temperature, humidity, illumination)
- Enrichment/exercise plans followed (as indicated)
- Room monitoring logs available and up-to-date
- Pest control is adequate to protect animals and food

For protocol-related questions, contact the IACUC Coordinator at 475-8650
For technical or training questions, contact the Animal Resources Center at 471-7534

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

All Surgical Procedures

- Anesthetic monitoring documented
- Proper sterilization procedures used for instruments
- Animals properly prepared (i.e., hair clipped, disinfection of surgical site)

Non-Rodent Mammalian Survival Surgery

- Specific areas for surgeon prep, animal prep, operating room, animal recovery, and sterile storage
- Operating Room cleaned and disinfected prior to and after surgery
- Surgeon scrubs and wears sterile gown and gloves, mask, and other apparel as needed (i.e., eye protection)
- Provide support therapy (ventilation, thermal regulation, fluids)
- Proper analgesics provided as specified in protocol
- Personnel present at all time throughout surgery and early recovery; regular checks thereafter
- Postoperative monitoring documented

Rodent/Bird/Amphibian/Reptile Survival Surgery

- Low traffic area in lab with no extraneous storage
- Surgeon must wear mask, sterile gloves, and lab coat
- Surfaces cleaned and disinfected prior to and after surgery
- If conducting surgery on multiple animals at the same sitting, gloves and instruments must be disinfected between animals
- Provide support therapy (ventilation, thermal regulation, fluids)
- Proper analgesics provided as specified in protocol
- Personnel present at all time throughout surgery and early recovery; regular checks thereafter
- Postoperative monitoring documented

Non-Invasive Procedures and Non-Survival Surgery

- Anesthetic monitoring documented when sedation/anesthesia administered
- Animals not kept in lab areas for more than 24 hours without specific IACUC approval (12 hours maximum for USDA-covered species such as bats, gerbils, hamsters)
- Soiled cages returned to facility promptly
- Well-maintained area free of hazards to animals used for procedures

Euthanasia

- Is appropriate for species and performed properly
- CO₂ is from compressed gas cylinder with proper regulator (no dry ice)
- Physical methods used without sedation only after formal IACUC review and approval
- Equipment used for physical methods maintained properly

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