

# IACUC Update

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee  
The University of Texas at Austin

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## Reporting Serious or Unanticipated Adverse Events

Principal Investigators (PI) utilizing animals for research, teaching, or testing must assure that mechanisms are in place so that their animals are monitored on a daily basis for signs of distress, pain, abnormal behavior, illness, or unexpected death. In addition to preventing and detecting spontaneous disease conditions, animals must be monitored for unanticipated consequences or adverse events associated with research, teaching, or testing use, that might occur due to:

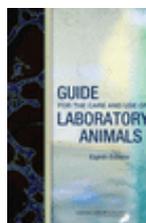
- surgery
- drug treatment
- genetic manipulations
- handling and restraint
- mechanical failures in environmental control systems
- transport or shipping (including animals that are injured or dead upon arrival)

In facilities that are centrally-managed by the Animal Resources Center (ARC), routine daily observation is performed by the ARC animal care staff. Research staff familiar with the experimental plan and baseline behavior of the animals may be in a better position to recognize abnormalities, and play an important role in animal observation as well. Research staff monitoring is mandatory whenever post-operative monitoring is described in the protocol. In satellite facilities that are not serviced by the ARC, the primary responsibility for daily observation is delegated to staff or students and it is vital that they are properly trained and informed by their PI of the need to identify unanticipated complications.

No matter who is doing the observation, federal regulations require that all instances of unusual or unexpected illness, debilitation or death be promptly reported to either the Attending Veterinarian or the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

For more information, refer to the IACUC guidance document (Guideline # 015) entitled "**Guidelines for Veterinary Care, Health Checks, and Illness Reporting.**"

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## 8<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*: Now Published

The Institute for Laboratory Animal Research of the National Academy of Sciences has published the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals: Eighth Edition (Guide)*. To browse or purchase the *Guide*, see: [http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=12910](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12910). A PDF version of the *Guide* is available for free for download on the OLAW website at: <http://olaw.nih.gov>.

The PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals requires that Assured institutions base their programs of animal care and use on the *Guide* and that they comply with the regulations (9 CFR, Subchapter A) issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) under the Animal Welfare Act.

## Revised Transportation Guidelines

**UPDATED** Guideline # 011 entitled "Guidelines for the Transportation of Animals on The University of Texas at Austin Campus" has recently been revised. The revisions include:

- **Additional information on transportation considerations when adverse weather is a factor.**
- **Clarification on transportation carriers.**

The revised guideline will be phased-in with existing protocols over the next year as investigators submit revisions and renewals.

The next IACUC Full Committee Review (FCR) is **April 11, 2011**.

The deadline to submit materials for review is **March 18, 2011**.

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