

# IACUC Update

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

The University of Texas at Austin

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## Requirements for the Operation and Maintenance of Guillotines

As per the AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia, equipment used to perform decapitation must be maintained in good working order and serviced on a regular basis to ensure the sharpness of the blades.

To assist researchers, the IACUC has prepared basic requirements for the operation and maintenance of guillotines:

[http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/iacuc/policies\\_index.html](http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/iacuc/policies_index.html)

## Requirements for Cage Identification - Reminder

As per the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals* (2011):

Identification cards should include the source of the animal, the strain or stock, names and contact information for responsible investigator(s), pertinent dates, and protocol number when applicable (p. 75)

At a minimum, cage cards must contain the protocol number and investigator name. The information on the cards must be kept current. If animals are transferred to another protocol or if the protocol expires and is replaced by a new one, the number on the card must be changed to reflect the new protocol number. When the third-year resubmission of a protocol is approved, the old number is considered expired, and all cage cards must be updated with the new protocol number.

For more information on current requirements for cage identification, please refer to the ARC guidance document "Cage Identification Requirements" on the ARC website:

<http://www.utexas.edu/research/arc/misc/guidelines.htm>

## Non-UT Personnel in Animal Labs

From time to time, personnel on a protocol may not have the expertise or experience to conduct the procedure(s) approved by the IACUC. In these infrequent occurrences, a Principal Investigator may call upon personnel that possess a certain skill or expertise, but are not affiliated with The University of Texas at Austin, to serve as a trainer and/or a consultant. In other instances, unaffiliated personnel may also express interest in observing procedures involving animals.

When individual(s) have direct involvement with the protocol, either by handling animals or providing guidance to approved personnel handling animals, the IACUC must assess the qualifications and prior experience of the individual(s). This must be handled by submitting a protocol amendment in eProtocol.

The IACUC recently approved a policy to clarify expectations for protocols and non-UT personnel. Please see Policy 3.14 for more information on the IACUC's expectations:

[http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/iacuc/policies\\_index.html](http://www.utexas.edu/research/rsc/iacuc/policies_index.html)

## Revised IACUC Guidelines

The IACUC has recently updated several guidelines. The changes include slight updates to the guideline titles, grammatical edits, and in some cases, additional points of consideration. For specific changes, please refer to the attached document.

The revised guidelines are available on the IACUC website and have been loaded into eProtocol.

The next IACUC Full Committee Review (FCR) is **September 14, 2015**.

The submission deadline for review at this FCR is **August 21, 2015**.

Animal Welfare Assurance

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