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

The IACUC conducts semiannual facility evaluations of all of the University’s animal facilities, including satellite facilities, using the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (8th Edition) (the Guide) as a basis for evaluation. The “Laboratory Self-Evaluation Checklist” is a tool to help laboratories prepare for semi-annual evaluations. Use this checklist along with the Guide, which provides the standards, recommendations, and descriptions of desired outcomes necessary to evaluate an animal care and use program.

Please contact the Office of Research Support with any questions, comments, or concerns.
voice: (512) 471-8871 | web: http://www.utexas.edu/iacuc | email: IACUC@austin.utexas.edu

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**Construction and Room**
- Walls/floors/ceiling/doors clean, free of cracks, free of chipped paint, etc.
- Animals not kept in lab areas for more than 24 hours without IACUC approval (12 hours maximum for USDA-covered species)
- Appropriate transportation methods are in place and are consistent with the Guidelines for the Transportation of Animals

**Cleaning, Sanitization, and Pest Control**
- Animal areas are regularly cleaned and disinfected
- Worn cleaning implements replaced and hung off floor
- No sign of pest activity (insects, rodent droppings)
- Clutter removed to prevent infestation/ harborage

**Personnel and Safety**
- All personnel working with live animals are approved on the animal use protocol and have undergone proper training (AALAS and in person, as needed for assigned duties)
- Personnel are aware of how to access the AUP
- PPE requirements are being followed
- Personnel are familiar with the Occupational Health Program (OHP)
- Human food, water, etc. not stored or consumed in the animal room
- Eyewash tested and documented monthly
- Safe sharps disposal system (no recapping needles)
- Biologic safety cabinet or chemical hood present if needed (hood tested and documented annually)

**Record Management**
- Adequate and complete surgical, anesthesia, peri- and post-operative care records present
  - Each animal has its own record
  - ARC has examples here

**Drugs and Drug Storage**
- Guidelines for the Use of Drugs and Chemicals in Animal Research are being followed
- Controlled substances stored in a locked safe and records present
- Expired drugs/ substances labeled and segregated
- Secondary containers labeled with name of substance and expiration date
  - Diluted drugs/ cocktails expire after 1 month
- Pharmaceutical or veterinary grade used unless justification is approved in IACUC protocol

**Anesthesia and Surgery**
- Anesthetic machines equipped with a gas-scavenging system and serviced annually (if not, a “DO NOT USE” sign is attached)
- Weight and date recorded on charcoal canisters during every use
- Aseptic technique used for 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
  - Tips-only technique utilized
- Surgical materials/ supplies are autoclaved and used within 6 months from autoclave date
- All applicable IACUC guidelines followed
- Personnel present throughout surgery and early recovery, regular checks thereafter

**Emergency Contact and Reporting Concerns**
- Current whistleblower posters hung in prominent locations
- Emergency contact information posted or available