

ANIMAL CARE AND USE UPDATE

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



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THE NEXT IACUC FULL COMMITTEE REVIEW (FCR) IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020.

[Click here for when to submit your protocol in relation to meetings.](#)

Meeting dates through summer 2021 can be found on our website here.

Looking for COVID-19 Correspondence?

Need to find previous correspondence or letters from the IACUC and ARC regarding COVID-19? They can all be found on our website under [Coronavirus Communications and Updates](#). The latest update was sent from the ARC on October 21, 2020.

Plan for Thanksgiving Break Closures

November 26- 27, 2020

The Office of Research Support and Compliance (ORSC) and Animal Resources Center (ARC) front office will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27 for Thanksgiving Break. No protocol processing will occur during this time.

The last day to order animals before Thanksgiving break is by 7AM Thursday, November 19, 2020 for animals to arrive November 23, 2020 or later. Animal order processing will resume after break on November 30, 2020. [Click here for the eAnimal Ordering website.](#)

For questions about animal ordering, contact ARC staff at m.tatum@austin.utexas.edu or besatter@austin.utexas.edu.

For any animal-related emergencies during break, contact the on-call veterinarian at the Animal Resources Center (ARC).

Updated Surgical and Anesthesia IACUC Guidelines

The following guidelines were approved with updates in the last 2 months. Find major revisions and locations of changes listed at the bottom of the updated IACUC documents.

- [Guidelines for Surgical and Anesthetic Procedures in Non-Rodent Mammals](#)
- [Guidelines for Surgical and Anesthetic Procedures in Rodents, Birds, and Cold-Blooded Vertebrates](#)

Thank You for Your Participation in the Semiannual Facility Evaluations!

The IACUC would like to thank animal researchers and animal care personnel for your time spent preparing for inspections, meeting with IACUC representatives, and making appropriate corrections.

Per federal guidance, the IACUC is obligated to perform these semiannual evaluations twice per year. COVID-19 restrictions added obstacles to the process this fall. However, your assistance in helping them run smoothly as well as in many cases willingness to participate virtually was greatly appreciated.



What is Protocol Noncompliance?

As research restarts after a long pause for many laboratories, it is imperative that investigators re-read their animal use protocols and applicable IACUC guidelines and discuss procedures in lab meetings to refresh their memories on how activities with animals were approved to be performed. If procedures or policies approved by the IACUC are not being followed, then the incident must be reported to the IACUC as protocol noncompliance.

Examples of noncompliance include performing unauthorized surgery, unauthorized persons participating in a research project, injecting drugs that the IACUC has not approved, not following post-operative or post-procedural monitoring as described in the animal use protocol, etc.

Protocol noncompliance is serious and will result in an IACUC investigation and corrective actions, a report to federal funding agencies (if applicable), and notification to the Institutional Official as well as deans or department chairs. Protocol noncompliance or repeated/ ongoing noncompliance may result in the suspension of the animal use protocol for any given period. See page 3 of this newsletter for a case study.

[IACUC Policy regarding Reporting Animal Welfare Concerns and Noncompliance.](#)

Case Study of Protocol Noncompliance

A research assistant administered carprofen to a rat after surgery as described in the NIH-funded animal use protocol. The next day the rat was displaying significant signs of pain. The research assistant contacted his PI and a clinical veterinarian. The PI and vet looked at the carprofen and discovered it was 4 months past expiration. The vet administered new analgesia and the animal recovered.



Why did the IACUC see this as an issue?

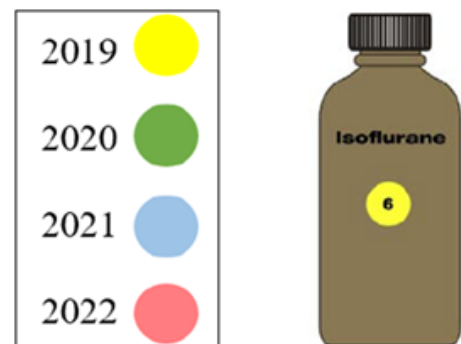
Drugs or agents used in animals (especially those used to provide analgesia and anesthesia) must be used within their expiration dates to guarantee effectiveness and prevent animal pain and distress.

Is this an example of protocol noncompliance and would this need to be reported to NIH OLAW (Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare)?

Yes and yes. This protocol is funded by the NIH, so the IACUC (through the Institutional Official) will report the incident to NIH OLAW. Per [NOT-OD-05-034](#) (Guidance on Prompt Reporting to OLAW under the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals), conditions that jeopardize the health or well-being of animals is reportable.

How could this noncompliance have been prevented?

Laboratory members should set a schedule and perform regular inventory checks for drugs or other agents used in live animals. Also implement a system to easily identify expiration dates. For example, the IACUC endorses a color sticker system. The sticker color identifies year and the number written on the sticker identifies the month it expires.



REMEMBER: All dilutions and mixtures of drugs removed from the manufacturer's primary packaging are to be discarded after one month from the date of preparation unless the manufacturer specifies a longer dilution shelf-life. Drugs and chemicals could degrade after dissolution or dilution and they may be more prone to bacterial contamination. For these reasons, even if it is earlier than the manufacturer's drug expiration date, all dilutions or mixtures made from a drug must be discarded after one month ([IACUC Guidelines for the Use of Drugs and Chemicals in Animal Research](#)).

Plan for Winter Break Closures- DEADLINES

December 23, 2020 - January 1, 2021

The Office of Research Support and Compliance (ORSC) and Animal Resources Center (ARC) front office will be closed for Winter Break between December 23, 2020 – January 1, 2021. No protocol processing will occur and no animal orders will be fulfilled during this time.

Please be mindful of upcoming deadlines for protocol processing and animal ordering.

Protocol Processing:

- Remember only COMPLETE protocols that have passed pre-review will be accepted for IACUC review. It is strongly recommended that you submit your protocol before these deadlines to guarantee review!
- The submission deadline for the January 11, 2021 full committee IACUC meeting is December 7, 2020.
- Protocol amendments containing significant changes or continuing reviews submitted after December 8, 2020 may not receive approval by designated member reviewers prior to Winter Break.

Protocol processing will resume after break on Monday, January 4, 2021. For questions about protocol processing and review, contact the ORSC staff at IACUC@austin.utexas.edu. [Click here for the IACUC Meeting Dates website.](#)

Animal Ordering:

- Orders placed by 7AM Thursday, December 3, 2020 will arrive December 7, 2020 or later.
- Orders placed by 7AM Thursday, December 10, 2020 will arrive December 14, 2020 or later. **Tuesday, December 15, 2020**
- Orders placed by 7AM ~~Thursday, December 17, 2020~~ will arrive December 21, 2020 or later. This will be the last order for 2020.

Order processing will resume January 04, 2021. For questions about animal ordering, contact ARC staff at m.tatum@austin.utexas.edu or besatter@austin.utexas.edu. [Click here for the eAnimal Ordering website.](#)

For all animal-related emergencies during during break, contact the on-call veterinarian at the Animal Resources Center (ARC).

Need Help?

ORSC is here to assist! Staff are working remote, so the best way to reach us with questions or concerns is by email.

IACUC@austin.utexas.edu

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