

# 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, JULY 12, 2021.**

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

Meeting dates through the end of 2021 can be found on our website here.

## **Restarting Research?**

We are excited that more investigators may resume their important research soon! Please remember that any personnel in the lab working with animals must be listed on the animal use protocol. If personnel are coming back after a long break, refresher training on the protocol and/or experimental technique should be provided as appropriate.

Hands on training is available and free of charge to all UT researchers using animals on an approved protocol. Please fill out a training request form and ARC staff will contact you to discuss and set up training sessions. If you have questions about what is offered, please contact the [ARC Training and Compliance Manager](#).

## **Updated IACUC Guidelines**

The following IACUC guidelines have been revised and approved during the last three months:

### **Guidelines for Blood Collection** (updated 5/10/2021)

- Background information, restraint considerations, details about fluid replacement, post-procedural complications, and other considerations added.
- Section added about common laboratory species blood collection sites and volumes

Review these guidelines for more details and contact IACUC staff at [IACUC@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:IACUC@austin.utexas.edu) with any questions or concerns.

## NIH RFI for Zebrafish Users

Through this Request for Information (RFI), the NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare (OLAW) is seeking input on flexibilities to reduce administrative burden while continuing to apply the Public Health Service (PHS) Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Policy) to zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) immediately after hatching. [Use this link for more information.](#) The response date is August 9, 2021.



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## Pentobarbital Shortage

The IACUC sent an email to all investigators listed on animal use protocols on June 9, 2021 entitled, “**Pentobarbital Back Orders and Potential Alternatives for Animal Research.**” This email describes possible plans for action until the drug once again becomes widely available and possible exceptions to current guidelines that may be requested in order to accommodate researchers who must use pentobarbital in their research. Contact [IACUC@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:IACUC@austin.utexas.edu) with any questions about how to request these exemptions.

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## AAALAC 2021 Site Visit: THIS FALL!

In the [April 2021 Animal Care and Use Update](#), we introduced what AAALAC is and how often they perform site visits. It states that once the site visit is scheduled, PIs or laboratory managers will need to be present to meet with the site visitors to describe how animals are used in the lab. A “Laboratory Self-Evaluation Checklist” was provided to help with preparations.

### What are potential questions AAALAC site visitors may ask researchers?

#### ***Q: “Are you enrolled in the Occupational Health Program?”***

A: All individuals involved with animal work at UT Austin must complete a [HealthPoint OHP Health Assessment Questionnaire](#) prior to starting work. This enrolls them in the OHP at UT Austin.

#### ***Q: “How do you report animal welfare concerns?”***

A: Informational sheets (“[whistleblower posters](#)”) must be posted in all animal facilities and laboratory spaces where animals are used. Contact the IACUC if you do not see one in your area.

***Q: "Where do you go for treatment if you are injured by an animal?"***

A: For emergency work-related injuries, call 911 and ask to be transported to the nearest hospital. If the injury involves an animal, chemical, or biological exposure, request transport to a St. David's affiliated emergency room. If urgent consultation with the Health Point OHP program is needed, call 471-4OHP (4647) and press 1 to be connected with an on-call nurse. You should clean bites and scratches ASAP to reduce chance of infection. Primate rooms have bite/scratch kits available. Contact OHP for direction after initial treatment.

***Q: "How do you consult a veterinarian for assistance?"***

A: Contact information for Dr. Glen Otto (Attending Veterinarian) and Dr. Laura Wilding (Senior Clinical Veterinarian) may be found in the [UT Directory](#). The ARC vet staff pager number is (512) 210-2107 and the general email is [vetstaff@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:vetstaff@austin.utexas.edu).

***Q: "What do you do if you find a sick or moribund animal?"***

A: Veterinary staff should be contacted if an animal is sick or if it exhibits any signs of pain that are not relieved by analgesic administration approved on the animal use protocol. All laboratory personnel must be properly trained on humane endpoints described in the protocol. Moribund animals must be humanely euthanized by trained personnel. Remember: all clinical care (non-research related) must be coordinated through the ARC.

***Q: "How often are the animals checked?"***

A: Animals must be checked daily, including weekends and holidays. Check your protocol for more frequent monitoring requirements if needed for study purposes.

***Q: "May I see your surgical records?"***

A: Have your records available for review and ensure they are complete and accurate. The [April 2021 Animal Care and Use Update](#) describes what information must be captured in surgical and post-operative records and how you can ensure your surgical and post-operative records contain all of the necessary information.

***If you perform surgery, be prepared to explain:***

- How asepsis is maintained, including proper surgical attire, animal preparation, and sterilization of equipment.
- Anesthesia and analgesia per protocol.
- How animals are monitored throughout surgery.
- How animals are monitored after surgery.

## 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](mailto:IACUC@austin.utexas.edu)

**Animal Welfare Assurance**  
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