

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,
FEBRUARY 7, 2022.**

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

Meeting dates through the
end of 2022 can be found on
our website here.

IACUC Semiannual Facility Evaluations

February 22, 2022 – March 1, 2022

The IACUC spring 2022 Semiannual Facility Evaluations will take place from Tuesday, February 22, 2022 – Tuesday, March 1, 2022. The IACUC is following the VPR guidance and plans to conduct in-person inspections for all animal housing and procedural areas. However we will continue to monitor pandemic conditions and if COVID-19 cases continue to surge, inspections may be rescheduled to conduct them virtually where possible. We appreciate your collaboration and patience as we navigate these changing conditions on a semiannual basis.

Please email IACUC@austin.utexas.edu if you need additional copies of the schedule. [Review this website for information on how to prepare for semiannual inspections.](#)

New/ Revised IACUC Guidelines and Policies

The following IACUC guidelines and policies have been revised and approved during the last two months and include details that investigators should be aware of:

Guideline #7- Guidelines for Surgical and Anesthetic Procedures in Rodents, Birds, and Cold-Blooded Vertebrates (Revised 01/2022)

- Revised to state surgical instruments used on multiple animals must be sterilized between animals.

Continued on page 2.

New/ Revised IACUC Guidelines and Policies, continued

Guideline #15- Guidelines for Veterinary Care, Health Checks, and Illness Reporting (Revised 01/2022)

- Section about veterinary pre-authorization for treating illness added.

Guideline #16- Guidelines for the Use of Drugs and Chemicals in Animal Research (Revised 01/2022)

- Revised to update sections regarding the use of expired drugs, non-pharmaceutical grade drugs, and toxic agents.

Guideline #17- Guidelines for the Social Housing and Environmental Enrichment of Laboratory Rodents and Rabbits (Revised 12/2021)

- Indicated nesting material is always provided for mice unless it is contraindicated on a specific study.



Guideline #22- Guidelines for Analgesia Use in Rodents (Revised 01/2022)

- Details about the importance of proper analgesic dosing were added. The guideline now differentiates proper dosage for Buprenorphine SR for rats and mice (i.e. Zoopharm vs. Ethiq). Recommended analgesic protocol for craniotomy was updated. **Check your protocols to ensure continuity with this guideline and amend it if not. See the case study below for a helpful scenario regarding analgesia administration.**

Policy #11- Food Maintenance and Storage (New approved 12/2021)

- Investigators who maintain their own food stocks because they house animals in IACUC-approved satellite locations and/or use food enrichment treats or nutritional rewards for their animals must follow food maintenance and storage guidelines described within this policy.

Case Study: Analgesic Dosing

A researcher was approved by the IACUC to perform craniotomy surgery on rats. The approved analgesic plan in the protocol involves:

- carprofen (SQ injection pre-operatively and then every 24 hours for 48 hours),
- lidocaine (SQ injection pre-operatively before incision) and
- buprenorphine (SQ injection pre-operatively and then every 12 hours for 24 hours).

The post-operative monitoring plan in the protocol states that the rats will be monitored twice daily during the first 48 hours and once per day for the following 3 days.

A researcher performed the surgery at 2:00 pm on Monday and injected analgesics as required on the protocol. He checked on his rats before leaving for the day at 5:00 pm and the rats appeared normal. The following morning at 7:00 am, he checked on his rats and administered the next round of analgesics.

Did the researcher follow his approved AUP in this scenario?

- While post-operative checks were performed in compliance with the protocol, analgesic administration was not. The buprenorphine was administered 5 hours late, which is protocol noncompliance.

What should have been done to ensure protocol compliance and prevent a gap in analgesic coverage?

- According to the [IACUC's Guidelines for Analgesia Use in Rodents](#), "One critical component of a proper analgesic dosing strategy is timing of administration. For all analgesics described, the dosing interval is strict and cannot be exceeded. For example, if a drug is to be given every 12 hours and the previous dose was at 7 pm, the next dose MUST be given by 7 am the following morning. Although dosing intervals must not be exceeded, in some situations it may be acceptable to administer an analgesic dose somewhat earlier, for example to help synchronize and standardize analgesic dosing times over a multi-day treatment schedule. An ARC veterinarian should be consulted to determine if this is appropriate, and it must be remembered that this will reset the timing interval for subsequent dosing."
- You can consult with a UT veterinarian to see if the Buprenorphine can be administered earlier (i.e. 6-8 hours after the initial dose). As a reminder, this would reset the timing of the next dose.

Could the protocol be written in a way that would NOT require the researcher to come in at 2:00 am to administer analgesics?

- Yes- an amendment may be submitted to use sustained-release buprenorphine, which would cover the entire analgesic period as described on the protocol. Different brands (Zoopharm and Ethiq) require different doses, so make sure to review the [Guidelines for Analgesia Use in Rodents](#) for the proper dosages.

Continuing Education: NAS ILAR Workshop



"Animal Welfare Challenges in Research and Education on Wildlife, Non-Model Animal Species, and Biodiversity"

When: February 9-10, 2022

Hosted by: National Academies of Sciences (NAS), Institute of Laboratory Animal Research (ILAR)

Format: Virtual workshop

As the world confronts issues ranging from biodiversity loss to the emergence of zoonotic diseases, understanding the ecology and biology of wildlife species is more important than ever. This workshop will focus on issues associated with the unique welfare challenges of conducting research with biologically diverse vertebrates living in varied habitats. Wildlife research can be particularly trying for IACUCs because guidance resources sometimes conflict, and recommendations outlined in the current version of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals can present challenges.

Workshop discussion topics include:

- perspectives on animal welfare considerations
- laws, regulations, and permits associated with fish and wildlife
- wild animal population concerns
- the role of veterinarians in wildlife research
- restraint and handling of animals in the field, and
- transition of wild animals to captive settings.

This workshop is free to all. [To learn more, please visit the workshop website.](#)

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

Animal Welfare Assurance

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