3 Tips for a GREAT Semi-annual Inspection

As mandated by our accrediting bodies and regulations (Animal Welfare Act, Health Research Extension Act, etc.) the IACUC must inspect animal care and use facilities every 6 months. What steps can you take to be prepared?

1. Be Prepared
   The next set of inspections are scheduled to begin in October 2018. During inspections, areas are ranked as follows: Acceptable, Minor Deficiency or Significant Deficiency. When a deficiency is noted, the IACUC will work with the research team to develop a reasonable plan of action.

2. Know the Expectations
   Common categories the inspectors will evaluate include:
   • If the PI can not be available during the inspection, a knowledgeable designee to answer all of the questions about the area and the study should be available.
   • Whistleblower form is posted
   • A copy of the protocol and all corresponding amendments, records of procedures and surgeries are maintained and available
   • Emergency contact/ veterinary care contacts are posted
   • Appropriate aseptic techniques are utilized, if applicable
   • Appropriate steps to minimize risk when working with hazardous substances are in place
   • All personnel involved with the care and use of live animals have been adequately trained to ensure high quality science and animal well-being. Training records are available for review.
   • All animal cages have appropriate cage cards for identification and procedures, if applicable.
   • Certifications are current on anesthesia vaporizers, biosafety cabinets and fume hoods.
   • Adequate safety features (Eyewash stations, safety signs, etc.) All personnel are trained on emergency procedures
   • Here is a link to a checklist to see if your lab is ready!
   https://liveutk.sharepoint.com/sites/iacuc/Semi%20Annual%20Inspection/Forms/AllItems.aspx
What’s New

Website
The IACUC has a new website that all UTK users can access. Now, anyone with a UTK email will be able to view all of our Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), as well as additional information like the Emergency Incident and Response Guide. (updated version coming soon)

The SOPs can be used when planning and writing an IACUC protocol for research or teaching. The SOPs are ever expanding! We have additional info on SOPs in this newsletter.

Training Log
Training is an important aspect of insuring animal welfare and documentation of training is essential. A training log needs to be maintained for each individual on an active protocol. The training log should be available for inspection during IACUC inspections and post-approval monitoring. Watch for a detailed email that will be sent in the next few weeks.

Did you know that OLAC can provide training specifically tailored to meet the needs of your lab?
Investigators that have taken advantage of this specialized training in the past have requested topics on lab animal anatomy, anesthesia, aseptic techniques, handling/restraint, blood sampling techniques, and tail biopsies. Additionally, OLAC offers an open invitation to our rodent handling, restraint, and experimental techniques labs. Feel free to contact OLAC with training request and we will do our best to accommodate your needs.

Visit the OLAC website for the most current training dates and times.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s)

The most updated list can always be found at IACUC.UTK.EDU

A few of our SOPs:

Anesthesia and Analgesics
1. Guidelines for Bovine Anesthesia and Analgesia
2. Guidelines for Cat and Dog Anesthesia and Analgesia
3. Guidelines for Equine Anesthesia and Analgesia
4. Recognition of Pain and Distress in Mammals

Enrichment
1. Canine and Feline Enrichment
2. Rabbit Enrichment
3. Ferret Enrichment

General Policies & Procedures
1. Guidelines for Tumors in Rodents
2. Murine Tail Tip Biopsy
3. Request for Veterinary Care
4. Retro-Orbital Blood Collection
5. Policy for Reporting Non-Compliance
6. Adoption of Research /Teaching Animals
Important Reminders

As a reminder, all personnel who work with animals must be enrolled in the occupational health program prior to working with the animals AND must complete an annual update. To enroll, complete the Initial Screening Questionnaire, and to submit your annual update, complete the annual update form. Links to forms can be found at: http://iacuc.utk.edu/occupational-health-program/

Facts & More

IACUC Workload Increase!

There has been an increase in protocol and amendment submissions over the last eight months compared to recent years. The IACUC team has been working very hard to maintain great service. To ensure every submission gets addressed as soon as possible, submit all protocols and amendments to UTKIACUC@utk.edu

Did You Know...

1. You can consult with an IACUC statistician for help with numbers justification
2. Librarian help is available for those alternative searches
3. Not all protocols that have animals experiencing more than momentary pain or distress require an alternative search. Excluded species include: rodents (Genus Mus or Rattus), reptiles, amphibians, and Ag animals used in non-biomedical research and teaching.
4. Did you know our outside regularly bodies look for expired drugs and supplies. If their use is not clearly approved in the protocol and stored according to the IACUC policy, then this could result in citations +/- fines. Refer to I the policy on IACUC website for more information.

Publications that have Come From IACUC Approved Protocols

A big thanks to all our PIs and their great contributions to science!

- Poor biosecurity could lead to disease outbreaks in animal populations. https://journals.plos.org/plosonline/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0193243