

PACUC Guideline

Veterinary Care – Provision of Veterinary Services

Laboratory Animal Program (LAP) has the responsibility of **veterinary oversight** for all animals used in research and teaching at Purdue University. Investigators or their designated representative(s) are expected to monitor the health status of the animals daily and report any ill, injured, or abnormal animal to LAP. The designated representatives may be facility managers, animal caretakers, technicians or students.

Veterinary care can be provided under the following options:

- Veterinary care can be requested from LAP (See **How to Obtain Veterinary Care**). LAP may prescribe treatment or in some cases refer to Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine Animal Hospitals or private practitioners.
- A non-LAP veterinarian may provide care as long as LAP is notified in a timely manner and medical records are accessible.
- Treatment may be initiated by the PI or designated representative for common conditions detailed in the facility or LAP Standard Operating Procedures. These treatments are to be recorded in the animal or facility records.
- For farm animals in an agricultural setting operating under a PACUC approved Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the farm/facility SOP will be followed for veterinary care.

Provision of Veterinary Services by the Laboratory Animal Program (LAP)

Centralized animal care staff will complete an AHEF (Animal Health Evaluation Form) for any animal displaying abnormalities. Forms are e-mailed to the PI, specific animal user, and LAP veterinary staff. Forms may be for notification purposes to monitor animals more closely or may request action from the investigative staff and/or LAP depending on the severity of the issue.

Facilities not part of the Centralized animal care group should refer to **How to Obtain Veterinary Care** to request veterinary attention.

A LAP veterinarian or a veterinary technician will be notified of all sick/abnormal animals. An exam may be scheduled with regards to urgency of symptoms reported, availability of personnel, and biosecurity procedures. If the animal is under the clinical care of another veterinarian, the LAP veterinarian or veterinary technician may simply note the case for the LAP records and follow up on the animal's progress either by phone/email with the clinical veterinarian or checking the medical records. It is the responsibility of the clinical veterinarian to maintain appropriate veterinary medical records accessible to the attending (LAP) veterinarian and/or USDA/PACUC. For guidance on medical records, see the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine position statement on Veterinary Medical Records:

<http://www.aclam.org/education-and-training/position-statements-and-reports>

If treatment of an animal on a study is warranted, LAP will discuss with the principal investigator (PI) or designated representative the condition of the animal, the diagnostic plan, and treatment options prior to initiation of treatment. Exceptions would be if treatment would clearly not affect the study objectives or the animal has a life-threatening condition and the PI or designated representative cannot be reached within a reasonable length of time. While every effort will be made to contact investigators prior to the initiation of

treatment or euthanasia, the final judgement on the need for veterinary care lies solely with the LAP veterinary staff.

For convenience, many times LAP provides pharmaceuticals or supplies for common treatments of individual animals. However, the PI or their staff is responsible for treatments and supplying pharmaceuticals beyond this limited scope, group treatments, and preventive care (vaccination and treatment for external or internal parasites). When initiation of treatment is imperative, LAP staff may administer the first treatment. The research staff is responsible for performing routine treatments prescribed by LAP.