

PACUC Newsletter

PURDUE ANIMAL CARE AND USE
COMMITTEE

MARCH 2020

RELATED WEBSITES

PACUC website—
for forms, policies,
guidelines, links for
Occupational
Health & Animal
Qualifications info,
etc.

[www.purdue.edu/
animals](http://www.purdue.edu/animals)

Occupational
Health Info:

[https://
www.purdue.edu/
research/
regulatory-affairs/
animal-research/
occupational-
health.php](https://www.purdue.edu/research/regulatory-affairs/animal-research/occupational-health.php)

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Recently Revised PACUC Guideline on the Use of CO2 for Euthanasia of Rodents

PACUC has recently revised their Guideline on the Use of CO2 for Euthanasia of Rodents so that it complies with the recently released AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia – 2020. Please go to the following URL to review this revised guideline:

<https://www.purdue.edu/research/regulatory-affairs/animal-research/docs/policies/Guidelines%20for%20the%20Use%20of%20CO2%20for%20Euthanasia%20of%20Rodents.pdf>.

New E-mail Address for Veterinary Care Needs:

The Laboratory Animal Program (LAP) veterinary staff have recently had to change their email address to make it more compatible with Office 365. The new email to use for submission of Animal Health Evaluation Forms (AHEFs) and all veterinary care needs is:

lapvet@groups.purdue.edu.

FINDINGS FROM FALL 2019 AAALAC SITE VISIT TO PURDUE – CONTINUED FULL ACCREDITATION

- ◆ Beginning October 28 and continuing through November 1, 2019, six representatives of the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International (AAALAC - <http://www.aaalac.org>) conducted a visit to evaluate the Purdue University animal care and use program and facilities. These representatives toured every animal facility, to include those at ASREC, Feldun, SI-PAC and Purdue Ft. Wayne. They visited many faculty laboratories and reviewed many animal care and use protocols and records.
- ◆ Purdue voluntarily participates in the AAALAC accreditation program. A private, nonprofit organization, AAALAC evaluates organizations using animals in research, teaching or testing. AAALAC awards accreditation to those organizations that exceed the minimum standards for the care and use of animals. AAALAC is not a regulatory body and does not make or enforce regulations. Instead, it uses widely accepted guidelines and best practices, such as the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals” (the Guide) and the “Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Agricultural Research and Teaching” in determining the status of animal care and use programs. The Purdue program became fully accredited in 2006 and has been evaluated every three years starting in 2004 and has continued to maintain accreditation. Purdue is one of more than 1000 accredited animal care and use programs in the world.
- ◆ Having a successful site visit and maintaining AAALAC accreditation would not be possible without the cooperation and efforts of every member of the University’s animal care and use community. Credit and thanks goes to each member of the University’s animal care and use community for a successful site visit and program.
- ◆ At the post-site visit briefing, the site visitors commended staff for providing and maintaining a high-quality program of laboratory animal care and use. Especially noteworthy were the strong institutional support, evidenced in part by the investment in well-qualified staff and continuous improvements in the facilities; the robust and effective training and communication programs for research personnel and animal care staff, especially for numerous part-time student workers and research personnel; the effective signage in facilities and on cages; the highly engaged and communicative personnel, especially the facility and farm managers and supervisors; the effective veterinary care program, with inclusive veterinary rounds and effective communication with veterinarians from the veterinary college and offsite locations; the

strong safety program, with effective involvement of safety office personnel in protocol review and development of safe handling practices; the good records maintained in research laboratories regarding surgery, postoperative care, controlled drugs, and equipment maintenance; the appearance of healthy and well cared for animals; the notable components that promoted animal welfare, evidenced in part by the innovative housing for studies utilizing radiation and serial blood sampling in swine, the implementation of national welfare initiatives (e.g., United Egg Producers and National Dairy Farm program), and the very active adoption program for multiple species; the overall robust and consistent environmental enrichment programs for all animals, especially the socialization and walking program for dogs used in teaching programs; and the clean and well organized facilities including the agricultural sites, the veterinary college facilities and the Meat Science laboratory.

- ◆ While the AAALAC site visitors commended Purdue for the overall high quality of our animal care and use program, they also provided a list of suggested improvements to the program. A majority of these suggestions have been addressed (providing complete heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system performance data and updated appendices for the lighting summary for satellite housing facilities; improving post-approval monitoring and addressing concerns in the one satellite facility; ensuring adequate sanitation and storage in a food preparation area; developing standard procedures and documentation for aquatic facilities; and planning to expand the monitoring of sanitation effectiveness of hand-washed items in areas outside of the centrally managed animal facilities. Two items still need to be completely addressed over the next three years (improve consistency in identifying and approving exceptions/ deviations to the recommendations of the Guide and re-evaluate our risk assessment program to ensure that all relevant workplace hazards are identified, and risk assessments are performed to ensure personnel safety).
- ◆ Maintaining accreditation demonstrates Purdue's commitment to responsible animal care and use. AAALAC accreditation is a symbol of quality and assurance that when animals are used to advance scientific progress, their well-being is protected. At the same time, it enhances the overall quality of science and promotes the validity of research in which animals are used.

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2020 PACUC MEETINGS

Meeting Date	Deadline for Protocol Submission
March 18	February 28
April 15	March 27
May 20	April 24
June 17	May 29
July 15	June 26
August 19	July 31
September 16	August 28
October 21	September 25
November 18	October 30
December 16	November 27