Spring 2007 PACUC Activities

“PACUC Meeting Dates”

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<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Deadline Date for Protocol Submission</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Dec. 27 @ 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>Jan. 31 @ 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Feb. 28 @ 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>March 28 @ 5:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td>April 25 @ 5:00 p.m.</td>
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“PACUC Orientation Programs for Vertebrate Animal Users”

The orientation program for new faculty, staff, and students, who will be using vertebrate animals in research, teaching, and/or testing, will be held on the following dates during the spring semester:

Thursday, January 18, 1:30-3:00 p.m. in STEW 218C.

Tuesday, February 6, 1:30-3:00 p.m. in STEW 320.

Attendance at one of these sessions is mandatory for personnel (faculty, staff, students) who wish to initiate work with vertebrate animals at Purdue University. Personnel will not be approved to work with animals until such time that they have attended one of these meetings or completed the program on-line. The on-line program may be accessed by going to the following URL: http://www.purdue.edu/Research/vpr/compliance/animals/onlineorientation.shtml.

The password to enter is “pass” (without the quotation marks).

This program presented by staff of the Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee and the Laboratory Animal Program is designed to introduce you to the Purdue system for maintaining regulatory compliance with federal and University guidelines and ensuring humane care and use of animals.
Registration is required to attend one of the “live” sessions and may be done via e-mail to Lisa Snider at ldsnider@purdue.edu.

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Rodent Sentinel Program
Changes for 2007

Beginning in January 2007, the rodent sentinel program managed by the Laboratory Animal Program will be undergoing some changes. Only long term mouse colonies or housing areas where mice are kept on a continual basis will be affected by these changes.

For mouse colonies, sentinel mice will be placed in the housing areas in January for testing in February 2007. Sentinel mice will be added and removed throughout the year on a schedule that will maintain sentinels in these areas on a continual basis. In addition, testing will occur quarterly as opposed to the current semiannual testing. These changes will allow for timely discovery of any pathogens or parasites affecting a particular colony and allow an earlier response to problems. Quarterly testing will also provide investigators, wanting to share unique mice with collaborators, the appropriate health information required to transfer mice to numerous other institutions.

All other rodent species, including rats, guinea pigs, hamsters and gerbils will be tested on a semiannual basis as in previous years. Semiannual testing for these species will occur in February and August.

Any questions or concerns about these changes should be directed to Dr. Peggy O’Neil at 494-9145 or peggyoneil@purdue.edu.

Lance and K.C. O’Neil (Lance in the background.)

Housing of Animals in Laboratory Areas - PACUC Policy

The Animal Welfare Act and Public Health Service Policy promulgate standards for animals housed in a location longer than 12 hours (Study Area). In order to meet these standards, the general policy at Purdue is that animals will be routinely housed in University animal facilities. For those situations where animals must be held outside the animal facility, the PACUC has a policy for such housing in order to ensure that all areas housing animals meet regulatory requirements. This policy is inserted at the end of this section.
If a laboratory area will need to be used to house animals longer than 12 hours, such use must first be requested via the PACUC protocol form or via an amendment request and must be approved by the PACUC. The area will need to be visited and approved by the PACUC / LAP staff prior to housing any animals in the laboratory area and will be subject to routine visits by the PACUC and LAP veterinary staff.

Policy for Adequate Animal Care in Animal Study Areas

Animal Study Area: A study area is an area outside an approved university animal housing facility where animals are housed for a period of 12 or more hours.

All animal study areas must be approved by the Purdue University Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (PACUC) prior to use and are subject to inspections by the PACUC. By housing animals in a study area, the investigative/research staff assumes certain responsibilities associated with such use to include:

- **Animal Care Staff and Training**
  All individuals working with animals must be properly trained in order to provide adequate care to the animals. Information regarding training can be acquired via the Laboratory Animal Program (LAP).

- **Daily Care of Animals**
  All animals must be cared for and observed at least daily, including weekends & holidays. Daily animal care must be documented. A Daily Animal Care sheet or log book, maintained in the area with the animals, is suitable to document the provision of daily care.

- **Veterinary Care of Animals**
  If any animal is noted as being abnormal, sick, injured or is found dead, you must notify the laboratory animal veterinary staff as soon as possible (494-9163).

- **Water, Feeding and Storage of Feed**
  Animals will be fed a palatable, non-contaminated, and nutritionally adequate food daily or according to their particular species requirements. Feeding instructions should be documented in order to ensure animal care staff is feeding the proper amount. Open bags of feed must be stored in enclosed, vermin-proof containers. Feed containers must be labeled with type of feed and milling date (if feed is not milled, the date the feed was purchased/acquired should be on the container). Animals should have access to potable, non-contaminated drinking water according to their particular species requirements.

- **Identification of Animals**
  Animals need to be clearly identified through the use of cage cards that include name of responsible investigator(s), source, species/strain/breed, number of animals in cage/enclosure, approved IACUC
protocol #, and information such as birth/age, arrival, and surgery dates (where applicable).

- **Sanitation. Housekeeping & Cage Placement**
  Cages/enclosures must be sanitized regularly in order to provide a healthy environment for the animal. The sanitation and cleaning schedule should be documented. This can be accomplished by documenting the cleaning duties performed each day on the Daily Animal Care Sheet. A specific location in the laboratory used for the animal study area should be designated solely for animal housing and be free of clutter. The animal study area must be kept neat and clean. The area/facility should have surfaces that are easily sanitized. These surfaces should be wiped clean daily and sanitized at least weekly.

- **Environmental Monitoring**
  The area where the animals are housed should be suitable for that particular species and must be monitored on a daily basis to ensure proper environmental parameters (i.e. temperature, humidity, ventilation, etc.) are being maintained. A minimum/maximum thermometer & hygrometer needs to be placed in each animal room. These units can be purchased from Fisher Scientific (www.fishersci.com) or VWR Scientific Products (www.vwrsp.com). The temperature and humidity readings should be recorded on the Daily Animal Care Sheet. For species specific recommendations on environmental parameters, please contact the LAP office at 494-9163.

- **Illumination**
  Traditionally, laboratory animal housing areas are equipped with controlled lighting systems that provide regular diurnal cycles. If it is not possible to control the lighting in the animal study area, the researcher must be certain that variable light cycles will not affect the research objectives and data. Where it is not possible to control the lighting in the animal study area, as a minimum lights should be turned off at night / on in the morning.

- **Emergency Information and Security**
  Emergency contact information must be posted in order to instruct emergency and maintenance personnel who to contact if there is a concern with the animal housing. This should include office and after-hours phone numbers. The animal study area should be kept locked and access should be restricted to authorized personnel only.

- **Additional Information**
  For additional information regarding proper animal care and use, please contact the Purdue University LAP office at 494-9163. All animal housing must conform to the standards in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. To acquire a copy of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals contact the LAP office at 494-9163.

It is recommended this policy be posted in the animal study area.