PACUC Gets a New Chair and New Committee Members

As of June 1, 2001, Prof. Peter Dunn has accepted the position as Chair of the Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee (PACUC). Prof. Dunn was previously the Assistant Vice President for Research Administration. He will be spending 0.5 FTE as chair of PACUC. If you need to reach him in regards to any PACUC issues, please call 47206 or e-mail him at pedunn@purdue.edu.

Also, please welcome Mr. Joel Bruhn and Professors Don Lay and David Van Sickle to the committee. Mr. Bruhn is in the Facilities Planning and Construction office. Mr. Bruhn received his B.S. degree from Iowa State University. Prof. Don Lay comes to the committee from the Department of Animal Sciences. He was previously on the animal care and use committee at Iowa State University. Prof. Lay received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Texas A&M. He is spending his free time these days sprucing up his yard. He recently planted 200 trees!! Prof. David Van Sickle is from the Department of Basic Medical Sciences. Prof. Van Sickle received his D.V.M. degree from Iowa State University and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue. Prof. Van Sickle is semi-retired and enjoys traveling and gardening… that is when he can get away from his first love – research. We would like to welcome these individuals to the committee.

We also wish to sincerely thank the following individuals, whose terms have expired, for
their many years of service to the committee: Mr. Gene Hatke (FP&C) and Drs. Harry Charbonneau (BCHM), Bob Smith (BIOL), and Linda Swihart (CHEM).

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Explaining the Annual Review of Approved Protocol Policy

This policy requires that PIs submit information (once every 12 months) about personnel changes, the number of animals used, the health status of animals, and about unexpected complications or difficulties that may have occurred during the previous 12-month period of approval. (The period of approval begins with the original approval date of the protocol and ends one year later. For example, a protocol was originally approved on July 1, 1990. If the PI were to receive an Annual Review of Approved Protocol form this month from the PACUC office asking that it be completed, the 12 month reporting period would be July 1, 2000 through June 30, 2001.) The PIs have been informed that significant changes from their originally approved protocols must be approved by the PACUC before they can be implemented. About a month before the anniversary of each protocol approval (excluding those protocols that are scheduled for more extensive triennial resubmission and review), the PI will be sent a form directing him or her to provide this information. The information provided on this form is reviewed by the Chair of the PACUC (or his/her designee), by a Laboratory Animal Veterinarian, and by one other member of the PACUC. PACUC members are assigned to participate in this review on a rotating basis. Questions or concerns raised by the reviewers are forwarded, in writing, to the PI. Annual renewal of the protocol will be withheld until the Chair of the PACUC (or his/her designee) has evaluated the PI’s responses to these questions or concerns as satisfactory. To aid in making this evaluation, the Chair (or his/her designee) will consult, as needed, with the other reviewers or other members of the PACUC. In addition, any of the three reviewers may request that renewal be considered and voted on at a meeting of the full PACUC.

We hope this helps explain how to determine the appropriate reporting period for the Annual Renewal of Approved Protocol form. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Snider at 47206 or ldsnider@purdue.edu.

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“How to Skin a Cat”

he search for alternatives to animal use required in all PACUC protocols has the
The goal of addressing the “Three R’s,” namely Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of animal use for research, teaching, or testing. This can be accomplished in many ways without compromising research. Replacement may be accomplished by use of *in vitro* methods to supplement or minimize the number of animals. Replacement can also mean replacement of an animal higher on the evolutionary scale (dog) with one lower on the scale (frog) to accomplish the same objectives. Reduction in animal numbers should not compromise the ability to attain statistically valid scientific data; however, one may be able to reduce the number of animals used in training on techniques by using models, or virtual aids prior to animal use. Refinement can be accomplished by use of analgesics, less invasive techniques, establishment of a scientifically justifiable endpoint for humane euthanasia prior to an animal becoming “moribund” or dying. The search for alternatives can include use of “virtual” and video simulations in training personnel on techniques prior to, or in place of, the use of live animals. What does this have to do with skinning a cat? Cat dissection (including skinning the cat cadaver) is one of many “virtual” exercises that can be found on the internet and used in your practice of the 3 R’s. Following are a number of internet resources that you may find helpful in your search of alternatives.

Humane Endpoints for Animal Experiments in Biomedical Research [http://www.lal.org.uk/cont.htm](http://www.lal.org.uk/cont.htm)

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**Occupational Health and Safety in the Care and Use of Research and Teaching Animals**

During a recent AAALAC (Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care) visit to the Purdue University campus, Occupational Health and Safety issues associated with the use of animals were discussed. In an attempt to keep personnel informed regarding occupational health and safety issues, over the next several months, the PACUC newsletter will include information in this area.

All individuals with animal contact should be aware of the Occupational Health Program
established by Purdue University upon the recommendation of the Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee. Current information regarding the program is posted on the PACUC web site at: http://ag.anesc.purdue.edu/nielsen/PACUC/animals_health.html It should be noted that the specifics of the program will be reviewed in the near future and any modifications will be listed in future issues of the PACUC Newsletter.

In addition, Purdue University Radiological and Environmental Management (REM) maintains a site that provides Guidelines for Animal Users at http://www.adpc.purdue.edu/PhysFac/rem/eh/anmluse.htm.

These two sites provide an overview of the program and provide some limited information on potential hazards associated with animal use.

A number of other resources are linked from the PACUC web site and include:

- Working Safely with Research Animals: Proceedings of the 4th National Symposium on Biosafety
- A NIOSH Alert: Preventing Asthma in Animal Handlers
  http://ag.anesc.purdue.edu/nielsen/PACUC/Links/other_links.htm
- Risk Assessment for Various Lab Animal Species (found under “Other Links” “Occupational Health and Safety”)
  http://ag.anesc.purdue.edu/nielsen/PACUC/Links/other_links.htm

The UC Davis “Risk Assessment for Various Lab Animal Species” site is very helpful. This site provides information regarding health risks associated with a variety of species of animals. It is a good starting point to become familiar with potential hazards associated with animals you might contact.

Should you have any questions after viewing these sites in regards to animal associated allergies, animal associated risk, or have any questions regarding the Purdue University Occupational Health Program, please contact the Laboratory Animal Program office at 49163.

The Occupational Health Program is available to anyone who has “animal contact.” This means contact in terms of physical proximity to animals or handling of by-products directly derived from animals, including but not necessarily limited to tissues, blood, urine, or feces. The contact must be in the course of employment at Purdue University.

To enroll in the program you will need to discuss it with your supervisor, then either you or your supervisor may contact Sheila Light at 49163 (for those working with vertebrate
animals in research, teaching, or testing) or contact Kay Knox at 41453 (for those working with client-owned animals in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital), for additional information or for an authorization form to receive your occupational health exam.