PACUC Membership Changes

Effective July 1, 2003, Professors John Dunning (FNR) and Robert Geahlen (MCMP) will join the Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee as voting members. Profs. Dunning and Geahlen will each serve a three-year term on PACUC and the committee welcomes them aboard!

The PACUC would like to take this opportunity to thank Professors Ray Galinsky (IPPH) and Rob Swihart (FNR), for their dedication to the committee during their terms of service. Their terms expire on June 30.

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The Emergency Response Plan for Animal Facilities

Over the past few months the Emergency Response Plan for Animal Facilities was modified for facilities on the main Purdue Campus. New in this revision are updated important phone numbers and a list of essential personnel. In addition, each facility has a designated section addressing emergency procedures and equipment specific for that area. Emergency phone numbers such as those for fire, police, and ambulance service are in the booklet and also included is a laminated sign to place in common areas of each facility.

Each animal facility on campus was given a copy of the revised Plan with the intention that it will be available to all personnel working within each area. This document is designed to guide you during emergencies, to inform you of potential emergency situations before an actual emergency occurs, and to help you anticipate and avoid dangerous situations.
The Plan is divided into topics that address animal safety procedures, natural disasters, mechanical emergencies, and security emergencies. Each section was modified to include information relevant to animal facilities on the Purdue University campus.

As always, the best way to deal with an emergency is to be prepared and anticipate situations before they occur. Please encourage everyone using the animal facilities to read the Emergency Plan so not only can we protect ourselves but protect our animals.

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Requests for Information Regarding Animals Used in Research, Teaching, and Testing

This past academic year brought several inquiries regarding animals being used for research, teaching, or testing purposes from individuals outside of the Purdue community. The majority of these inquiries were channeled through the PACUC office but some of them went to individual departments and employees.

PACUC would like to remind all personnel that if inquiries are received from individuals or the media asking for specific information concerning the use of animals, they should be directed to the Office of University Relations (494-2082) for an official statement. Individual personnel should not discuss the specific use of animals with those outside of the University.

For questions or concerns on this matter, please contact the PACUC office at pacuc@purdue.edu. Thank you.

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Brown Bag Seminars for Animal Users - Fall 2003
Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

This series of Brown Bag Seminars will feature Swine, Birds, and a review of Rodent Survival Surgery Techniques. The first session on the use of Swine in Research will be composed of a combination of LATA (Laboratory Animal Training Association) training video and FASS (Federation of Animal Science Societies) materials in a Power Point format. The second seminar will consist of a video produced by the University of California, Davis, detailing proper restraint and handling of birds. In October, we will feature a "rerun" of the popular NIH CD, "Training in Survival Rodent Surgery." We hope that investigators, technicians, students, post-docs, and animal care personnel will also join us
for topics that are pertinent to use of animals in their research programs!

August 19 in STEW 209
Swine Use in Research

September 16 in LILY 3-113
Restraint and Handling of Birds

October 14 in STEW 209
Training in Rodent Survival Surgery

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Personnel Qualifications

The Animal Welfare Act states, "It shall be the responsibility of the research facility (Purdue University) to ensure that all scientists, research technicians, animal technicians and other personnel involved in animal care, treatment and use are qualified to perform their duties. This responsibility shall be fulfilled in part through the provision of training and instruction to those personnel."

Other than the mandatory Animal Care and Use Orientation program, Purdue has left the training and certification of individuals in animal procedures essentially up to the Principal Investigator, while providing "Brown Bag Seminars," hands-on training or access to slide sets, videotapes, etc., on a voluntary, as needed basis.

In an effort to help PI's with this training obligation and to comply more fully with government requirements for uniformity in basic training from one laboratory to another on campus, PACUC has approved the use of an on-line Laboratory Animal Training Program (LATA) for use on a trial basis for one year. A number of species-specific and procedure-specific modules will be available for commonly used laboratory animal species at this website. Beginning in the fall of 2003, new users submitting qualification forms may be required to complete an additional basic module on humane care and use of the animal species with which they will be working. In addition, new users who will perform rodent surgeries will be required to view modules associated with anesthesia, analgesia, and basic aseptic surgical techniques. An alternative to use of the LATA on-line training module would be attendance at the applicable “Brown Bag Seminar;” however, specific species/procedures topics are usually only given in seminar format on a semiannual or annual basis. This on-line training WILL NOT substitute for "hands-on" or specialized training in techniques specific to the research protocol but will provide a uniform understanding of basic handling, care, techniques and special traits associated with our research animals.
The Laboratory Animal Program has acquired two animal models that can be used as an adjunct training aid in learning rodent techniques. The Koken Rat™ can be used to practice handling and restraint, peroral dosing, blood collection and intravenous injection from the tail vein and endotracheal intubation, while the PVC Rat™ can be used to practice microvascular surgical techniques in that species. If you would like to use these models as part of your specific techniques training or would like LAP to assist with your training program, please call 494-9163.

PACUC Seminar on Pain Recognition, Assessment, and Management

Pain recognition, assessment, and management of animal subjects are areas that continue to receive a great deal of attention. The PACUC recently hosted a seminar on this topic. A board certified veterinary anesthesiologist and the USDA veterinary officer who visits Purdue made presentations. If you would like a paper copy of the power point presentations from this seminar, please contact the PACUC office at pacuc@purdue.edu.

Certain “take home” points are worth repeating:

- Purdue University, via its Assurance with the Public Health Service, commits to the U.S. Government Principles. Principle IV states, “Unless the contrary is established, investigators should consider that procedures that cause pain or distress in human beings may cause pain or distress in animals.”

- Two quotes worth consideration:

"One of the physiologic curiosities of therapeutic decision making is the withholding of analgesic drugs because the clinician is not absolutely certain that an animal is experiencing pain. Yet, the same individual will administer antibiotics without documenting the presence of bacterial infection. Pain and suffering constitute the only situation in which I believe that, if in doubt, one should go ahead and treat."

"We are the cause of pain and distress in experimental animals and we should alleviate that pain and distress as completely as possible with all the tools at our disposal."
• It is often stated animals tolerate pain better than people do. *Truth* - animals tend to communicate pain through changes in body language and we must learn to interpret their expressions (need to know normal behavior).

• Another commonly stated expression is, "I am worried how the drugs will affect my experimental model." *Truth* - understand the drugs and their effects when making up the protocol. Side effects of most analgesics are well known and there is a large selection such that choices can be found that would minimally affect the study.

• To maximize analgesia, be proactive. Preempt pain. Don't quit (i.e., analgesic therapy) until pain quits.

• Written documentation of the types, amounts, and time of administration of anesthetic, analgesic or tranquilizing drugs used during a procedure or post-procedure period is required. This documentation is subject to inspection during unannounced USDA veterinary inspections, semiannual PACUC inspections of animal facilities and animal study areas, and the LAP rounds to animal areas. In the opinion of regulatory agencies, "If it is not written down, basically it was not done."

At the time of protocol review, animal procedures are reviewed by both PACUC and LAP to ensure that proposed anesthetics and/or analgesics are appropriate for the species and research objectives. It is important that certain information be provided: (1) How you will assess animals for the presence of pain, (2) How you will prevent and alleviate pain and (3) Justification for withholding analgesic therapy.

The LAP veterinary staff (494-9163) is available to provide assistance with, training in, or guidelines regarding the proper administration and use of analgesics or anesthetics.