Adequacy of Training

The Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee has historically left it up to principal investigators to certify that the students, staff, and others who appear on their protocols are adequately trained for the procedures and species used in their studies. They do so by initialing the correct boxes on the Animal Use Qualification Form as well as adding the names of these individuals to their protocols. Last fall, PACUC instituted a new policy requiring that investigators maintain records to verify that training has actually taken place. This was described in detail in the September 2005 PACUC Newsletter and a template of a hands-on training form was provided that could be used as is or following modifications to meet the particular needs of an investigator. This Policy may also be found on the PACUC website, http://www.purdue.edu/Research/vpr/compliance/animals/policies.shtml.

Recent incidents have raised serious concerns with the PACUC that individuals are not being adequately trained to carry out procedures on their own without supervision. While some institutions require that individuals from some administrative unit verify that adequate training has occurred, PACUC believes that our present “honor system” works well when principal investigators fully accept their responsibilities for training. It is imperative that they do so for a number of reasons, the most important being the care and welfare of the animals themselves. It is also important from the viewpoints of our assurance with the National Institutes of Health, our registration with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and our provisional accreditation by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care.

To assist investigators in meeting this end, support is available from the Laboratory Animal Program (LAP). On our website is a number of Laboratory Animal Training Association training modules...
which are available on-line. These deal with the humane care and use of a large number of species and techniques associated with using vertebrate animals. There are also books, tapes, CDs and other resources available from the LAP/PACUC office and the undergraduate library. In addition, there are brown bag lunch programs throughout the year which deal with particular species and procedures. LAP also has a training coordinator who is able to assist investigators in learning a wide variety of techniques including, but not limited to, handling, injections, and blood sampling. For some procedures, assistance is also available from the LAP veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

Related to the above, is the concern of PACUC that in some cases individuals working under a particular protocol are not aware of what is specifically stated in that protocol. For example, one might not be cognizant of the details regarding surgical procedures including agents for pain and distress and monitoring during recovery. It is important, therefore, that all individuals have ready access to the protocols on which they are listed and fully understand what procedures are expected to be followed under these protocols.

For questions or assistance with implementing the PACUC Training Policy with your staff, please contact the PACUC office (pacuc@purdue.edu).

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Summer 2006 PACUC Meetings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Deadline Date for Protocol Submission</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 21</td>
<td>May 31 - 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 19</td>
<td>June 28 - 5:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>August 2 - 5:00 pm</td>
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Bocephus "Bo" Snider

TRAINING COORDINATOR POSITION

As some of you may be aware, Susan Cutter, the Training Coordinator for the PACUC and Laboratory Animal Program since October 2004, was married in April 2006 and has moved from Purdue, effective May 31.

In Susan’s absence, members of the staff of the Laboratory Animal Program will continue to be available to assist you with any training needs you have. Please contact the Laboratory Animal Program at 494-9163 or lap@purdue.edu if there is anything you need in terms of facilitating timely, appropriate, and
applicable training for your research needs.

A search is underway for an individual to fill the vacancy.

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**Position Papers of Potential Interest to Those Who Utilize Animal Models**

In October 2005, a report was released by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) Task Force on Rodent Euthanasia. The ACLAM Task Force on Rodent Euthanasia was appointed in response to growing concerns and controversy regarding techniques that were commonly used for rodent euthanasia. Three issues were targeted as the focus of the report: euthanasia of fetal and neonatal rodents, the use of carbon dioxide for rodent euthanasia, and the impact of euthanasia techniques on data. The charge to the Task Force was to create a document that summarized in a scholarly and comprehensive manner all available data-based literature relevant to these topics, to assess the scientific merit of the design and conclusions of those studies, and to compile valid information into a concise and cohesive document that could serve as a resource for diplomates, other veterinarians, IACUC members, regulatory bodies, and research scientists. The report can be accessed at: http://www.aclam.org/PDF/pub_rodent_euth.pdf.

While not as new (revised in 2003) but still an excellent resource for anyone using animals in research or teaching, the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiologists (ACVA) updated its position paper on the treatment of pain in animals, a copy of which can be found at the ACVA web site:
http://www.acva.org/professional/Position/pain.htm.

The ACVA “believes that animal pain and suffering are clinically important conditions that adversely affect an animal’s quality of life, either in the short or long term. Furthermore, the ACVA endorses a philosophy that promotes prevention and alleviation of animal pain and suffering as an important and tenable therapeutic goal.” Topics covered by this position statement include a definition of pain, types of pain, importance and recognition of pain, and treatment of pain.

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**Animal Orders**

Due to the high volume of animal orders that go through the LAP office throughout the day, in order to increase efficiency, orders will be saved for processing as a group vs. being approved as they arrive. As a result, orders will be reviewed and approved by LAP after 3:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. This includes all ARIBA and non-ARIBA orders. Please forward this information on to your business office so they are aware of this new policy. Also, orders placed after 4:30 p.m. on Fridays may not be approved until the following business day. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.