Vol. 22, No. 2, June 2007

New PACUC Employee Hired

A new employee has been hired to work with the Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee (PACUC). Lori Bugher (pronounced Boo-er) has been hired as a Clerk V effective July 9, 2007.

Lori’s responsibilities include: vertebrate animal order approvals (this will in the near future include placing orders directly with the vendors); animal supplement and animal transfer data entry into the PACUC database; approaching animal limit memorandums to PI’s; fielding requests regarding the number of animals available on an approved protocol; filing of veterinary medical records; and assisting the PACUC Administrator with various clerical tasks.

Lori can be reached at 47259 or lbugher@purdue.edu.

Lisa Snider
PACUC Administrator

Goody-bye to an LAP Employee

Ms. Summer Boyd, LAP Veterinary Technician, is leaving Purdue effective August 3.

Summer has accepted a position as a Training Coordinator at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. Congratulations to Summer on her new career and for completing her Master’s degree in Agriculture Education. We wish her the best.

LAP and PACUC Staff

~~~

Training Trenches

Hoff, Janet; (November 2000). Methods of Blood Collection in the Mouse. Lab Animal, Volume 29, No. 10 or can be viewed online at http://www.lawte.org/materials/hoff.pdf
Collecting blood from mice is necessary for a wide variety of scientific studies, and there are a number of efficient methods available. It is important to remember that blood collection, because it can stress the animals, may have an impact on the outcome of research data. In addition, it is extremely important that those who collect blood become skilled in the techniques they employ, and seek to stress the mice as little as possible. The following techniques are described in detail in the above volume of Lab Animal along with suggested safe blood withdraw volumes.

If you need training or want to discuss your options for blood collection, please call Carol Dowell at 494-2521. As always, be sure to document your training and submit your qualifications to the PACUC office.

- Blood collection not requiring anesthesia:
  - Saphenous vein
  - Dorsal pedal vein
- Blood collection requiring anesthesia:
  - Tail vein
  - Orbital sinus
  - Jugular vein
- Terminal procedures:
  - Cardiac puncture
  - Posterior vena cava
  - Axillary vessels
  - Orbital sinus

Carol Dowell
Training Coordinator

AAALAC-I to Visit Purdue – Fall 2007
Part II

In the last (March 2007) PACUC Newsletter, information was presented regarding the upcoming visit to Purdue by the Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care-International (AAALAC-I). It was noted that in addition to visiting animal housing areas, the AAALAC-I site visitors might also visit investigator laboratories where animal procedures (e.g., dosing, surgery, euthanasia, etc.) are performed.

Investigator responsibilities in terms of surgical and post-operative care recordkeeping were presented in the March newsletter. If you missed this information, check the last newsletter available on the PACUC/LAP website.

Other information that you might find valuable in preparing for an AAALAC-I visit to your laboratory:

- Keep laboratory neat and organized - this says a great deal about the lab. Spruce up but don’t shut down.
- Are all members of the laboratory (faculty, staff, and student)
  - Familiar with the approved PACUC protocol (e.g., have read/know where a copy is located and the procedures that have been approved by the PACUC)?
  - Familiar with the point at which an animal on protocol should be euthanized?
  - Aware of how to report animal concerns?
  - Know how to seek veterinary care for animals?
  - Aware of the Occupation Health program for individuals with animal contact?
  - Aware of the PACUC policy on training?
  - Aware of the PACUC policy regarding transport of animals?
  - Aware of the PACUC policy for adequate animal care for animals in study areas?
(animals being held in lab for greater than 12 hours)?
• Aware of PACUC animal policies in general as posted on the PACUC/LAP website?

➢ Have all drugs used in animals been checked for expiration date and discarded if expired?

➢ If applicable and if active animal research is ongoing, are the anesthetic and analgesic agents listed in the protocol readily available?

If you need assistance with any of the above areas, please do not hesitate to contact the PACUC/LAP office at 4-9163. The policies referred to above and others can be found at the following URL: http://www.purdue.edu/Research/vpr/compliance/animals/policies.shtml.

Once the dates for the site visit are determined (September-October- November 2007), PACUC/LAP will plan to disseminate this information widely. Knowledgeable research personnel are encouraged to be available during the AAALAC-I visit to discuss the scientific objectives of their animal use projects.

Bill Ferner
Director, LAP

~ ~ ~

Transport of Animals Outside of Animal Housing Facilities

In many instances it is necessary for investigators to move animals from normal housing areas to their laboratories for a variety of procedures including treatment, imaging, surgery, etc., and, sometimes, back again. Great care must be taken in doing this. In order to help investigators, in 2004, PACUC established a policy in a document entitled “Guidelines for Transportation of Animals in Areas Outside Animal Facilities (Public Areas)” which is available on its website.

Basically, the health and wellbeing of the animals come first so “Animals and animal caging must be transported in a contained manner to protect the animals, and minimize risk of escape.” For the sake of both the animal’s health and the research study itself, it is important to reduce possible stress due to inadequate ventilation, temperature changes, humidity, noise and odors, and possible pathogens. To meet this goal, “the cage, carrier or container must be escape proof, e.g., there must be a latch or locking mechanism to prevent unintended opening. Containers should not be needlessly jostled, tilted or unsafely stacked.”

A second concern involves the individuals encountered in public corridors and halls when transporting the animals. While steps can be taken to minimize such contacts (such as using freight rather than passenger elevators and avoiding stairways), they will occur. This is a matter of sensitivities. In one sense of this word are those people who may have some aversion to the use of animals in research and teaching or simply do not care to view animals such as mice and rats. In a second definition, there is concern about those who may be allergic to the animals, a not uncommon occurrence. “To minimize release of bedding from rodent cages, animal dander and airborne animal allergens into the environment, personnel should ensure that filter tops are used on rodent cages or that cages, carriers or animals are covered with a drape or shroud during transport.” It is also important to remember to take similar precautions when returning empty cages to the animal facility.
Of particular concern is the movement of animals between buildings. In this case “a secondary enclosure (e.g., disposable box) should be used in addition to the primary enclosure.” Such movement is likely to also present a greater problem in avoiding temperature extremes and inclement weather. Depending on the species and distance, it may be necessary to transport animals in a climate-controlled vehicle. In such cases it may be possible for facility managers to assist investigators with this. Transporting animals in personal vehicles is discouraged. If a personal vehicle must be used, plastic or a similar impermeable material should be placed under the transport cage / carrier to reduce risk of contamination.

For additional information on the transport of animals, visit our website, contact the PACUC office, or confer with a Laboratory Animal Program office veterinarian. If hazardous materials (e.g., infectious materials, hazardous chemicals, radioisotopes) are also involved, contact Purdue University Radiological and Environmental Management (REM) for specific guidance.

Gary P. Carlson
PACUC Chair

~ ~ ~

Updating of Animal Use Qualification Forms

Earlier this year, those who use vertebrate animals and whose last names begin with A-M were sent a memo and a copy of their qualification form from our training coordinator and secretary asking that each form sent out be reviewed and updated, if needed. If no changes/updates were needed on the qualification form, the individual was asked to indicate this on the memo and return it to the PACUC office. The return rate for these forms was considerably less than what was expected.

A second memo will be mailed out in the near future asking that the qualification forms be updated. The return rate for this second notice is expected to be higher. It is vital that these qualification forms be updated periodically to accurately reflect an individual’s training in regard to working with vertebrate animals. For those forms not returned after the second notice, a phone call or email to the individual will be initiated by me to determine the best way to get the updated information.

Those individuals whose last names begin with N-Z will receive a memo and copy of their qualification form later this summer asking that the form be updated and returned to the PACUC office.

If you have any questions when you receive this request, please contact me directly (ldsnider@purdue.edu or 47206). Thank you for your cooperation in this regard.

Lisa Snider
PACUC Administrator