PACUC Newsletter

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March 2012

Update on the Implementation of Coeus Electronic IACUC Software

As of the writing of this newsletter, we have implemented this software program in three departments with seven principal investigators within those departments participating in a pilot program to begin submitting all PACUC related items (protocols, amendments, etc.) electronically. The pilot investigators have offered many helpful suggestions that have been implemented. We have also discovered several “bugs” in the system that must be fixed prior to rolling it out University-wide. (We have the programmers busy at MIT fixing these issues.) Once the initial pilot program with those seven investigators is complete, we will expand the program to all animal users within those three departments for further testing. After this, Coeus will be implemented throughout campus for all animal users. For full implementation, we are most likely looking forward to mid-2012.

The PACUC office has completed the process of transitioning all paper copy protocols into the electronic system. This involved taking over 500 protocols and entering them into the electronic system to create a protocol record. A protocol record must be created in Coeus prior to individual investigators being able to submit items electronically. Members of the Purdue Animal Care and Use Committee are now reviewing all submissions electronically.

We are in a transition period as the pilot investigators are electronically submitting their paperwork and all other investigators are submitting paper copies. I ask for your patience while we are in this transition period. The PACUC office will continue to strive to get your submissions approved as quickly as possible during this time. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have regarding this new process.

Lisa Snider
PACUC Administrator

Visit the PACUC website at www.purdue.edu/animals for forms, instructions, policies and guidelines.
Animal Use Qualification Form Database

In January, the PACUC office implemented a new process for submitting new and updating old Animal Use Qualification (AUQ) Forms. As you are aware, if you use vertebrate animals at Purdue in a research, teaching, or testing protocol, an AUQ form documenting your qualifications and training to work with animals is required to be on file in the PACUC office.

Prior to January, individuals were required to submit a paper AUQ form to the PACUC office. Our secretary would then input the data into an Access database so that the PACUC office could track a person’s training and qualifications. These paper forms, and subsequently our database, were usually not up-to-date due to individual’s having to submit a new paper form with any changes that needed to be made to their qualification record. Also, principal investigators and supervisors did not have access to those qualification forms to review if an individual was qualified to work on their animal project.

The AUQ form is now a web-based application that is accessed using your Purdue career account and password. The URL for this application is: http://www.purdue.edu/research/vpr/rschadmin/rschoversight/animals/forms.php. You can now log into this application and update your AUQ form at any time. The person that you list as your supervisor will approve the new submission or any update made to an already existing form. This web-based application will allow an individual access to his/her form at any time they need to update it. This will insure that it is accurate at all times which allows the PACUC office immediate verification that someone is trained to work with certain species and procedures. The link above also takes you to the, “Guidelines to Complete the Animal Use Qualification Database.”

Please note that only those who have a Purdue career account and password can access this web-based system. For those who do not have a Purdue career account and password, please see the section in the above link entitled, “Animal Use Qualification Documentation – Non-Purdue Employees or Non-Career Account Holders,” for instructions on how to complete an AUQ form (you will continue to submit a paper copy and the PACUC staff will input it for you into the web-based system).

Please contact the PACUC office at lap@purdue.edu with any questions on this new process.
Lisa Snider, CPIA
PACUC Administrator
Guidelines for Transportation of Animals in Areas Outside Animal Facilities (Public Areas)

Animals and animal caging must be transported in a contained manner to protect the animals, minimize risk of escape, and to protect personnel along the transport route from potential exposure to animal allergens.

Reducing stressors by maintaining appropriate ventilation, avoiding temperature and humidity extremes as well as minimizing noise and odors play a significant role in reducing research variability. It is also important to maintain an animal’s health status by avoiding exposure to potential pathogens.

Animals must be transported safely and in a manner that minimizes stress. 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 secondary enclosure (e.g., disposable box) should be used in addition to the primary enclosure when transporting rodents between buildings. Examine the interior of any disposable transport box used before disposal to assure animals are not left in the container.

Transportation of animals should avoid public areas. When it is necessary to transport animals through public areas, particularly outdoors, animals should be visually obscured using a shroud or opaque secondary enclosure. Personnel should be aware of the risk of possible reaction by those opposed to animal use.

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.

Empty, soiled cages (with or without bedding) or carriers should be handled in the same fashion. Soiled cages / carriers should be covered during transport and should avoid personnel areas. Soiled cages may also be contained in bags as a means of minimizing allergen exposure during transport. They should be returned to an animal facility as soon as possible.

Temperature extremes need to be avoided. Special precautions to protect animals from heat or cold stress or postponements are required when temperatures are below 45°F or above 85°F Fahrenheit. Inclement weather (e.g., rain) may also necessitate postponement dependent upon the planned mode (e.g., foot vs. controlled climate vehicle) and distance of transport.

Reusable enclosures should be sanitized between use to prevent the spread of pathogenic microorganisms, animal wastes and allergens. Clean and decontaminate cargo areas used in the transportation of animals as necessary to prevent contamination of future animal deliveries.

When any body fluids (blood, urine, saliva mucus), feces, or dirty bedding contacts any surface outside the carrier, it must immediately be removed and the area disinfected with an appropriate disinfectant.

Transporting animals in personal vehicles is discouraged. In many cases, the unit animal care staff can provide or arrange for transportation of animals. Individuals are encouraged to check on the availability of such service. If a personal vehicle must be used, plastic of a similar impermeable material should be placed under the transport cage / carrier to reduce risk of contamination.

For transport of animals to locations outside Purdue, contact the Laboratory Animal Program office for information pertaining to transfer. Individuals planning to transport live animals (or carcasses) exposed to hazardous materials (e.g. infectious materials, hazardous chemicals, radioisotopes) from one location to another should contact Purdue University Radiological and Environmental Management (REM) for specific guidance.
Policy for Use of Personal Protective Equipment in Animal Facilities

The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 8th edition, states that “good personal hygiene will often reduce the possibility of occupational injury and cross contamination.” The Guide goes on to state that “appropriate policies should be established and enforced, and the institution should supply suitable attire and PPE for use in the animal facility and laboratories in which animals are used.”

The following policy applies to laboratory animals housed or used on the Purdue University campus within laboratory animal facilities. This policy does not apply to agricultural animals housed on farms as these areas have SOP’s concerning appropriate clothing. In addition this policy does not apply to animals cared for by the Purdue University Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

This policy establishes a minimum standard for personal protective equipment and is not to limit more stringent requirements for personal protection that may be needed in some animal areas or animal associated work areas such as cage wash. Appropriate signage must be posted in areas where more stringent requirements for personal protection are needed.

- A clean laboratory coat or disposable laboratory coat/gown to be worn over street clothes or clean designated clothing such as surgical scrubs or coveralls are to be worn whenever entering an animal housing area.
- Open toes shoes are not to be worn in animal housing areas.
- Laboratory coats or other designated clothing such as coveralls or surgical scrubs are not to be worn outside of the animal facility area unless being worn to transport animals or equipment or for personnel movement between animal holding buildings.
- All reusable clothing items are to be laundered at the animal facility or laundered by the Veterinary Teaching Hospital Central Supply in Lynn Hall. If laundering at the animal facility is not possible, placing soiled clothing in a sealed plastic bag for transportation will reduce the exposure to allergens of persons outside of the animal facility.
- Latex or nitrile gloves are to be available in all animal facilities for use when handling or examining animals. Nitrile gloves are to be available for those with latex allergies.
- Soap, water and paper towels or alcohol based hand sanitizer will be available for hand washing/sanitizing after handling animals and before eating, applying cosmetics, or smoking.
- Personal items such as but not limited to coats, backpacks, and hats are not to be taken into animal-housing rooms.
- Shoe covers or rubber boots may be needed in areas where animal waste or potential pathogenic organisms may be carried from one animal area to another on foot wear.
- Masks such as dust masks or N-95 masks may be needed in some areas. N-95 masks must be fit tested by REM if use is required.
- Any exception to the minimum requirement for personal protection requires PACUC approval for either the PACUC protocol or SOP under which the animals will be used. This does not apply to more stringent requirements for personal protection.

Upcoming PACUC Meetings

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<tr>
<th>Meeting Date</th>
<th>Deadline Date for Protocol Submission</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>February 29 @ 5:00 pm</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
<td>March 28 @ 5:00 pm</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
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<tr>
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